THE

wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

January 1988

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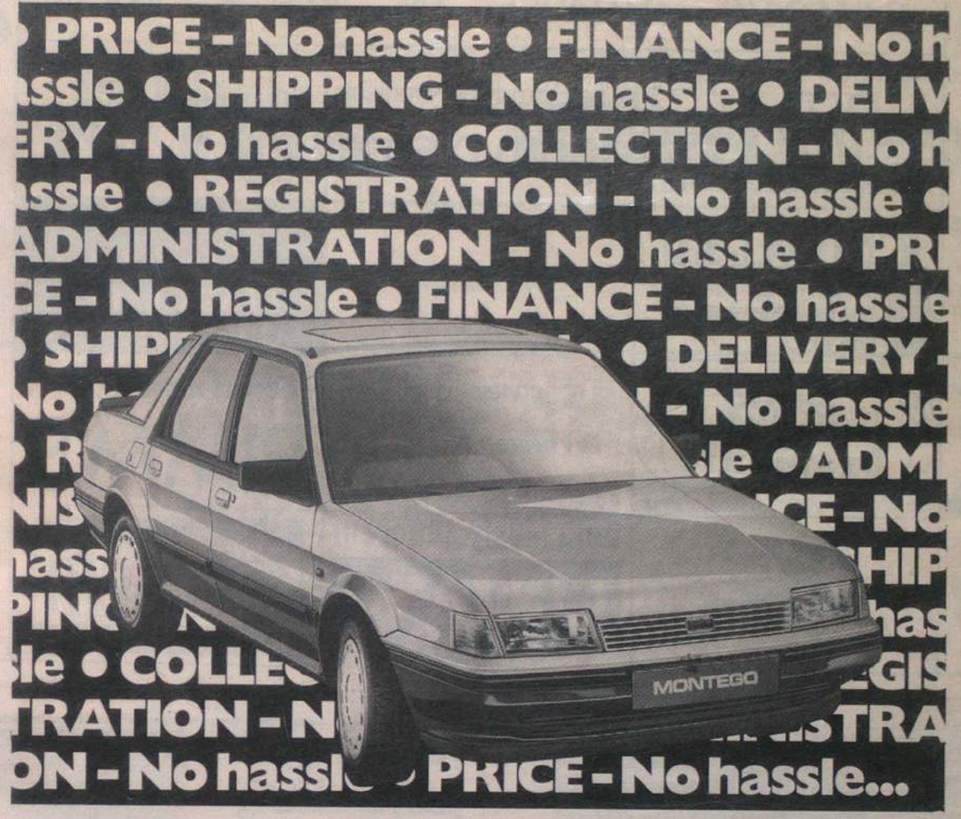

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

NEW YEAR HONOURS

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

CBE
Brig S. Cowan

OBE
Lt Col S. M. A. Lee

MBE
Capt (Tfc) S. Pratt WRAC Royal Signals
WO2 W. S. Brown
WO2 S. J. Lang (V)

BEM
SSgt (AWO2) W. Heelan
SSgt P. A. Findell
SSgt R. S. G. Georgeson (V)
SSgt P. B. Hunt (V)
SSgt T. G. Padden (V)
Sgt D. J. Walker
LCpl W. A. Pemberton

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) won the NATO Challenge Cup Biathlon held in Denmark. This followed the Squadron's success in winning the competition held in Turkey last year and reported in the September Wire *(p479)*.

OUR COVER PICTURE
AMF(L) CHALLENGE CUP CHAMPIONS 1987
Standing L-R: Lt Mike Grimson, LCpl Dave Price, Sig Sam Parke, Cpl Ivan Oakey, Sig Geoff Pearson, LCpls 'Brummy' Baker, Charlie Challinor, Cpl Andy Slack, LCpl 'Slug' Davey, Cpl Terry Dowse, SSgt Terry Crosby, Sig 'Taff' Owens, 'Trigger' Kent, 'Mac' McGregor, Kev Kerr, Cpls Mick Orien and Sig Harry Harrop
Kneeling L-R: 2Lt Phil Baker, Lt Nigel Godbolt, Sgt Gary Waters, Sig Chaz Chambers, WO2 Harry Elkan, Sig Paul Hornsby, Cpl Shep Sheppard and Sgt Pete Gower

– From our "In" Tray –

EXERCISE ANDES DIAMOND

Report by Sgt Jon Duckworth

Team list: **Capt M. J. Perry** (Expedition Leader), **WO2 (SSM) 'Rick' Logan** (Expedition 2IC), **Sgt Jon Duckworth** (Admin NCO/Photographer), **Cpl 'Rich' Angrove** (QM/Ornithologist), **LCpls Phil Deakin, Mark Ewart, Wayne Hayes, Stuart 'Mac' McKinnon, Sig Vince Lund, Paul 'Nes' Nebitt, Craig 'Scotty' Scotson** and **Danny Thrasher**.

As early as March of this year, the fruits of **Capt Perry**'s labours were materialising in the form of computerised 'board brush' outlines of his intended expedition.

The team was nominated and, by sheer coincidence, three quarters were from 3 Sqn, all but one being Oscar Tp and the remainder coming from 1 and HQ Sqns—the solitary figure from HQ Sqn, in the form of **Phil Deakin**.

The aim of the expedition was to undertake a series of high altitude volcano climbs in the Ecuadorian Andes, with sufficient time to explore a country of diverse culture and varying environs.

The preparation for a venture of this scale was both time consuming and frustrating but with the begging letters written, flights booked, the team 'popping' Paludrine, injecting each other with anti-rabies jabs, things finally came together on 17 July 1987. With the kit acquired and packed, a 'last supper' was arranged in the cookhouse with the Commanding Officer and OC 3 Sqn; the latter was trying to persuade members to 'drop out' to fulfil his Duty Squadron requirements for the next six weeks.

Availability of flights from Germany to UK, to connect with flights to South Amercia, meant an overnight stay in England which was kindly catered for by officers of 2 Luton based ATC Units. They were also able to provide transport to run us around the morning before departure to collect our pre-ordered rations, ending up with carriage of the team members and equipment to Heathrow. However, an unfortunate expenditure was added to the expedition by insufficient legal parking facilities in Watford, whilst collecting supplies.

Four flights and 24 hours travelling time later, we arrived in steamy Quito, met by the Assistant Defence Attache, who escorted us to accommodation booked by him.

Our first three days were spent acclimatising to the altitude and environment; this included coping with the beggars of all ages and experiencing the local cuisine, some being less adventurous than others, with **'Danny' Thrasher** unearthing the local 'Kentucky Fry'. During this time we purchased local rations: the two married members taking over this responsibility—**Rick Logan** proving he was a discerning shopper 'I'm your mother now, son', whilst **Mark Ewart** went in search of oxygen. This drove us to take an early 36 hour trek to the Pichinchas to test our readiness for bigger things to come.

The Pichinchas proved altitude to be a greater problem than the non-climbers could have foreseen but other than this, all went well for the majority of the team, who were to be rewarded with their view of a volcanic crater at 4,800m.

Our return to Quito enabled us to replenish our energy with a welcome feast, followed the next day by replenishing our supplies from the local supermarkets, ready for our departure to the spa town of Banos.

The journey to Banos proved an experience in itself. The bus catered for the average height of the Ecuadorian populus, 5ft 5in, and their desire to travel with all their wordly goods in tow, encased in a blanket accompanied by their live-stock, inclusive of smells and noise. We arrived safely with our equipment remaining surprisingly on the roof, to explore the town which is famous for its hot springs, in which the locals did their washing, much to the dismay of Vince Lund, and visually experience a local delicacy of roast guinea-pig.

Banos was to be our base for an attempt on Mt Tungurahua (5,016m) which we approached by cattle truck, followed by a trek through semi-jungle and bamboo groves, to the refuge where we conserved our strength, fitting crampons, ready for our assault the next day with an Apline start. In darkness we commenced a steep walk, harrassed by an ill-prepared German tourist, over scree until dawn, when we witnessed a spectacular sunrise and the breathtaking first glimpses of the Valley of Volcanoes. The achievement of nine team members reaching the peak was followed by a photo call, before our descent in anticipation of the softening of snow with the climbing of the sun. The next day we returned to Quito, having hitched a lift, as Banos interfered with our acclimatisation, being lower than the capital.

Following further replenishment of energy (except **'Rick' Logan** who experienced a Delilah haircut at a local barber's) and supplies (or address book details in the case of the 'Shark Twins', **'Mac' McKinnon** and **Wayne Hayes**), on 31 July 1987 we departed by bus to Latacunga and open truck to Cotopaxi National Park. The refuge at 4,800m (higher than any point in Europe) was close enough to the glacier to enable us to practice rope and glacier work. Another Alpine start at 0200 hrs for the first attempt on Cotopaxi (5,897m) only permitted us to reach 5,400m, before white-out weather conditions enforced a return. The following day a weather check at 0300 hrs postponed our second attempt for 24 hours. Eventually, only three members successfully completed the climb to the summit, due to a fresh crevasse and **Jon Duckworth** having decided to have a face to face confrontation with a scree, followed by a head on encounter with a sample of volcanic rock.

An uneventful return to Quito, followed by the now familiar 'turn-round' routine of washing, buying and repacking, ready for another bus journey to Machachi, then van to the base of Illiniza Norte (5,126m). A quantity of false summits made the hard going trek to the refuge very disheartening, as was the basic state of the refuge itself. The largest number of the team in one go reached the peak, despite the disappointing weather conditions of mist and rain which rendered poor views of what could have been magnificent scenery. This meant all team members had, at some stage of the expedition, exceeded 5,000m.

With a return to Quito between, we were able to encompass a cultural visit to the highly colourful, Indian market of Otavalo. This enabled us (exclusive of **'Scotty' Scotson** who, having decided his passport was too weighty, continued his journey on foot) to see the Ecuadorians in their true environment and most members were able to venture into a little bartering for mementoes and souvenirs. Included at the market was a traditional weekly cock fight which proved educational and far from the disorderly racket one is led to believe. It was whilst at Otavalo our resident ornithologist, **'Rich' Angrove**, registered his best sighting; a dead toucan (its beak being considered worth exploitation by the locals).

An eventful return to Quito for some, on a bus which we thought was too good to be true— it proved to be stolen and joy-driven by a young teenager. Another visit the next day to the Equator (Mitad del Mundo) which is identified by a monument at the hemispheric dividing line, recorded by a photo of the group in suitable poses. Also at this location is a museum epitomising the various Ecuadorean cultures.

Ex Andes Diamond
Mount Cotopaxi (5,897m)
Onwards to the summit

The next day saw the start of our final and most ambitious peak, Chimborazo (6,310m). Ambato was reached by another horrendous bus journey, followed by a truck ride which will be remembered for the spectacular views of the range on such a clear day. The refuge, at 5,000m, included many luxuries, including mattresses, and was generally well equipped. Chimborazo also took two attempts, the first being thwarted by exceptionally high winds and low temperatures for the time of year. An indication that the wind had dropped the following day was by the presence of mist which influenced our decision to make a second attempt. However, the wind, once

climbing, was found to be quite stiff and this was our most arduous undertaking throughout the expedition. The pace of Chimborazo was only alleviated when **Capt Perry** fell through an ice bridge, enabling the remainder to take a brief breather, but fortunately he fell only 5m and was able to restore his composure unaided and uninjured. Due to the deteriorating weather conditions, the climb was curtailed at Veintimilla summit (6,270m). The Whymper summit, another hour away at 6,310m, was considered fool-hardy and a rapid descent made.

The climbing concluded, we spent three days resting. A difference of choices meant the team split into two parties, nine setting off for a time-consuming journey to the Amazon jungle, whilst the three remaining members elected to recoup their energy relaxing on the Pacific coast.

On 24 August the team reassembled for one last day in Quito to collect themselves and belongings together (the majority of the latter being donated to a local orphanage) before the long return journey to the UK. This was, however broken by a fleeting stop over in Caracas where we were able to take a quick dip in the Caribbean, before continuing to England for three further days rest, prior to returning to work in BAOR.

Ex Andes Diamond
Sig Lund and Cpl Angrave having a breather!

IN PRAISE OF ARMY QUARTERS

MY VERY DES RES—IN CATTERICK!
Report by Sgt Bob Nicol

On 28 August **Brig R. F. Maynard** presented the keys of a quarter to my family and me. The quarter is one of 99 new ones in the Thorny Hill Park estate. These houses are all brand new and occupy the site previously occupied by the flat-roofed quarters immediately across Scotton Road from 8 Sig Regt.

When I found out that I was posted to 8 Sig Regt, I thought back to the two quarters my wife and I have had in Catterick before. These were not kind thoughts, so it was a very pleasant surprise indeed to discover that we had been allocated a new quarter. I was particularly pleased because Schemes Tp, where I work, is only two minutes walk away.

The house is unlike any other quarter we have lived in or seen. Each is double-glazed throughout and has gas central heating. There is a gas cooker in the fully fitted kitchen and, amazingly, all the colours match. Indeed this is true throughout the house where carpets, curtains, walls and even chair covers match.

The Thorny Hill Park quarters are very pleasant to live in, easy to maintain and, if you are in 8 or 11 Sig Regt, ideally situated. We are very pleased with our desirable residence.

14 Darwin Walk, Thorny Hill Park Estate, Catterick

Brig R. F. Maynard presents the keys to Sgt Bob Nicol, his wife Maureen and daughters Caroline *(left)* and Louise *(right)*

Maureen giving Brig Maynard a cup of coffee in the smartly fitted-kitchen

EXERCISE CALTROP TYRO

On the morning of 1 November 1987 30 intrepid souls from 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn arrived at RAF Lyneham to board an RAF Hercules for the first leg of a three day journey to Monterey, California. This was the advance party for Ex Caltrop Tyro.

Ex Caltrop Tyro was a four nation CPX held at Fort Ord, California, in November 1987. The four nations involved (USA, UK, Canada and Australia) make up the ABCA (America/Britain/Canada/Australia) organisation. ABCA was founded after the Second World War to promote co-operation and interoperability between the four allied nations. In the years since, ABCA has been concerned with the issuing of Quadripartite Standing Agreements (QSTAGs) which, like NATO STANAGs, cover a whole variety of technical and procedural aspects of interoperability.

It was with the aim of validating these QSTAGs that the Caltrop series of exercises was initiated. The first of these was Ex Caltrop Tyro, a Divisional CPX, and the second will be Ex Caltrop Force, a Brigade FTX. The Squadron had just finished three weeks on Ex Keystone, the 2 Inf Div FTX held in BAOR, and the advance party had only 48 hours in Catterick between exercises. Whilst we had been in BAOR, the Chief Clerk, **SSgt (ORQMS) John O'Donnell,** had been across to Fort Ord for a week's recce. He reported the natives friendly, although they spoke a completely different language (contrary to popular belief), and had some quite unique customs when it came to matters military. The Squadron spent Keystone practising the cries of 'Light Fighter', 'Manchus', and 'Keep up the Fire' in a variety of American drawls.

The three day Hercules flight was made bearable by the overnight stops in Gander and Winnepeg. Whereas the Army would have issued everybody a 24 hr pack and told us to roll out our sleeping bags in the departure lounge, the RAF had the decency to book us into four star hotels and pay for all our meals with a magic American Express card. A brief customs stop at Travis AFB was made on the final day, then a scenic flight down the Californian coast gave everybody their first sight of San Francisco and the Golden Gate before touch down at Monterey Airport. We were then driven into Fort Ord.

Fort Ord lies some five miles inland from Monterey, and 100 miles south of San Francisco. It is in the heart of 'Steinbeck' country, and the coastline is one of the finest in the States. It is the home of 7 Inf Div (Light), part of the US Rapid Deployment Force. This being the USA, the whole division is based at this point, 9 Inf Bns, 3 Artillery Bns, and supporting signals, intelligence, and logistic battalions. The 'Light' term in the Division's title reflects current US thinking on the RDF and similar units. The infantry battalions are pure 'foot' infantry, going into battle with what they and their dozen light cargo vehicles can carry. These vehicles are called HUMMVs, and are known as Hummer. They are wide and long wheel base 4 × 4 vehicles, which proved ideal for driving around the Fort Ord training area.

The advance party got a good idea of the size of the Division when it took part in the thrice yearly Divisional Run. The entire Division, split into companies, went for a four mile run round camp. Each company, carrying its guidon and all in matching t-shirts, tracksuits or combats, followed the battalion and brigade headquarters round the route. From our start point on the route it took 20 minutes from the Divisional Commander running past to our joining the end of the procession. We were given the place of honour immediately behind the 9th Regt Headquarters, our hosts for the exercise. During the run we were cheered on by the spectators lining the route, and encouraged by the cadences sung by all the American units. At a brisk pace it provided an ideal way for the advance party to get to know the layout of the camp! The rest of the Division got the afternoon off, but we went straight onto the ranges, and then worked through the weekend preparing for the arrival of the main party.

The main party, some 120 staff, signallers, and controllers arrived by VC10 at San Francisco International Airport on 7 November 1987. They had flown the whole trip with just one refuelling stop at Gander, a total of 17 hours in the air. Also that day the Australian contingent flew in, and the Canadian contingent arrived after a week long drive. The ABCA Force being formed for the exercise consisted of 2 (US) Bde, 24 (UK) Inf Bde, 1 (CA) CBG, and 6 (AS) Inf Bde, with a divisional headquarters provided by 7 Inf Div (L). Needless to say signallers made up the majority of each contingent, and we were joined by fellow signallers from 127 (US) Sig Bdn, 1 (CA) Canadian Bde Gp Headquarters and Sig Sqn and 139 (AS) Sig Sqn.

The exercise started with a welcoming ceremony, and then went straight into rehearsal for the Remembrance Day parade. Each ABCA brigade had been allocated an accommodation and office area, and soon the Squadron Office was in full swing, mainly acting as a taxi-cab office as it tried to control the few vehicles allocated to the Brigade. The shooting team practically lived on the ranges for the first few days as it practised hard for the ABCA Falling Plate competition. SA80s and 'advisers' from 3 LI and 15 Fd Wksp had been brought in to help us along. **Lt Andrew Fletcher** and his team of **Sgt Tony Playford, Cpls Tim Squire, Trib Slaney, John Dick, Steve Haresign, Stephen Laws, LCpls 'Scouse' Cardwell, 'Cossy' Costello, 'Jim' Davidson** and **Sig 'Geordie' Fuller** had a tough task in competing against the 7 Div champions. In the end the Brigade won the officers' competition and came second in the NCOs' and the ORs' shoots. The officers' team time was the fastest of all the teams shooting and they felt justifiably proud of beating the Americans on their own turf.

The first few days were taken up with briefings for the staff, so the Squadron was able to take time on the ranges familiarising itself with US Army weapons and equipment. There was time to fire the M16A1, the SAWs Lt Sp Weapon, and the M203 Grenade launcher, and opportunities to inspect the TOW HUMMV variant and all the standard kit of an American 'Light Fighter'. This gave the signalmen ample opportunity to draw up a shooting list for exchange items, and for a trip to the US Army Clothing Store — like a military Millets. The American soldier has to pay cash for all his kit after his initial issue — no exchanges in this army.

The evenings were spent either at organised ABCA socials in the Rally Point (read NAAFI Club), or the NCOs and Officers' Clubs, or in downtown Monterey visiting Cannery Row, Doc Ricketts and other local bars and clubs. The more adventurous ventured out to Carmel in the hope of seeing Clint Eastwood supping an ale at his Hog's Breath Inn. On 11 November a Remembrance Day Parade was held by the ABCA nations, and this was followed by a stand-down in the afternoon; a bit of relaxation before deploying to the field the next day. For the more culturally minded a coach tour was laid on along

Signallers from the four ABCA Nations. The Units represented are: 127 (US) Sig Bn, 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn, 1 Canadian Bde Gp HQ and Sig Sqn, and 139 (6 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn

A HUMMV 4 × 4 cargo truck and trailer. These vehicles come in a number of variants, including TOW, FFR, Rebro, Cargo and Command

17 Mile Drive, a scenic coast route along the Monterey Peninsula. This was followed by a visit to the Monterey Aquarium, which is one of the most impressive in the world, with tanks the size of our vehicle garages full of a great variety of fish. The aquarium is perhaps best known as one of the locations in the latest Star Trek movie.

The Squadron deployed into the field on the morning of 12 November 1987. All the comms equipment was being provided by 3 Bn 9 Regt and B Coy 127 Sig Bn. In 7 Div all (CNR) comms are provided from the Divisional Signals Battalion. 3rd Bn 9th Regt had been nominated to look after us and trying to find a brigade HQ's worth of kit from a 'light' infantry battalions store proved our first problem. The second was trying to interpret from US to British terminology. Luckily the officers of 3/9 proved equal to the task, and through their untiring efforts we managed to deploy a brigade headquarters that neither looked nor functioned very differently from our own. The addition of a large G1/G5 cell to cope with the local populace of our scenario's threatened island, and an even larger fire support cell to control the extra guns, FGA, B52s, helicopters and naval guns were the only incongruous aspects.

Our signallers had been assigned to the various comms dets supporting the headquarters. For the DTgs and RROps this just meant exchanging a 4 ton box body for a Chevrolet box body. **Cpl Al Higgins** and **Sig Carl Radley** were soon at ease with the trunk equipment, but Linemen **Cpl Ian Church** and **LCpl Percy Parkin** found themselves trying to remember their old BRUIN training when they were sat down in front of a switchboard! The ROps and RTgs suffered a culture shock though when they discovered that 3/9 just had manpack radios, and that they dug these and themselves into a trench! Needless to say British adaptability showed through and soon Signalmen **Bri Hyde, Steve Walton** and **Bob Armstrong** had a poncho shelter erected over the trench and the 'radio shack' became more and more comfortable as the exercise progressed. In terms of equipment the Squadron was faced with a mixed bag of capabilities, but all of it proved easy to learn. The CNR was manpack and a few vehicle borne VHF (FM as the Americans insisted on calling it), all with crypto. The trunk comms consisted of a BRUIN lookalike, although the systems electronic exchanges made it slightly easier to use. We naturally made a belated sales pitch for PTARMIGAN. Instead of including Tg as part of the trunk system the Americans deploy an HF secure RTTY (RATT) net. The two printers consisted of a pre-T100 and a modern Trend lookalike. **LCpl 'Fitz' Fitzgerald** and **Sig Clive Whitehouse** found adapting to this from their SAS/MC no problem at all. Our final piece of comms equipment was a manpack SATCOM. The radio was no bigger than a PRC320, and the antenna was the size of a dinner plate. Using a DSCS satellite somewhere over South America **LCpl Jeff Crossley** was able to talk to the Div HQ SATCOM operator 3km away!

After a couple of days of PACEX the staff finally deployed and the CPX began in earnest. The scenario had us coming to the aid of the country of 'Monterey', which shared an island (shaped suspiciously like Southern California) with three other nations. One of these was the communist backed 'Roberta', which invaded Monterey after the ABCA force attempted to destroy the Robertan backed guerillas operating in Monterey. After three days of fighting the ABCA force finally forced the Robertan army back across its borders and peace was declared. The only notable event of the CPX play had been when the Australian brigade had spotted a large body of 'enemy' troops and called in the US Marine Corps FOO to 'neutralise' it. The USMC, never doing things by halves, called in the massed 16in guns of the USS Missouri that was lying offshore, which then proceeded to blast the 'enemy' back to the stone age. Unfortunately the 'enemy' turned out to be a company of 3LI, whose CO was rather miffed at the sudden loss of a quarter of his battalion.

In order to make us feel at home the Americans had even arranged for three days of near continuous rain, so that the wood we were in began to resemble Rabbit Wood on Catterick Training Area. It was only the US soldiers providing us with never ending tales of the assorted giant spiders/bugs/snakes that reminded us where we were. The food was also a change from the 100% compo we had been on during Keystone. Breakfast and Tea were containerised, and gradually the cooks were persuaded to replace the grits, french toast and hash browns with bacon, fried tomatoes and porridge. It was with the lunch meal though that our palettes faced the toughest challenge—MREs. 'Meals Ready to Eat' come in a brown bag and about 12 different menus. You boil the bag in water, slit open and eat, usually with a peanut butter cracker or chocolate chip cookie to accompany it. After a few days of these most people were ready to return to 100% compo!

Not everybody was involved in the exercise. We had brought along some of our echelon as well, so British cooks, mechanics and drivers were soon operating alongside their US counterparts. **Cpl Les Penaluna** and to teach the Americans how to cook bacon and **Cpl Stu Kingdon** found that American vehicle backloading could be just as tedious as its British equivalent. **LCpl 'Taff' Malaney** decided that he wanted to do something different to his usual ROps job, so he managed to get himself attached to an American rifle platoon, and spent the week 'light fighting' his way across the training area.

At ENDEX we returned to camp and handed back all the kit to the Americans. **Sgt Bryan Hayles** (acting SQMS) was seen to breathe a great sigh of relief when the American RQMS finally sent him away with only three tent halves missing. The next day was taken up with packing the freight, and then in the afternoon a three nation rugby match (the Canadians preferring safer sports like ice-hockey). The Australians had brought the brigade team and the Americans had recruited the local Monterey RFC. Against such stiff opposition our scratch team performed with great skill and enthusiasm, having a particularly good match against the Americans which they were unlucky to lose. The team lost to the Australians in the next match (complaining of tiredness), and in the decider the Monterey team won easily against the Australians. Victory was celebrated and sorrows drowned in a four nation barbecue, for which the Australians had thoughtfully provided a skips worth of Castlemain XXXX, and the Canadians had brought down two sides of beef. Afterwards the ORs adjourned to the Rally Point and downtown, and the Officers to the Officers Club for an end of exercise cocktail party.

The final three days were given over the R and R. A coach trip was laid on to Los Angeles, 300 miles down the coast, with visits to Universal Studios, Disneyland and Hollywood. Others went up the coast by hire car and Greyhound to San Francisco, and some stayed in Monterey to just enjoy the local area or to stay as guests of American friends. On 22 November the advance party flew back home by Hercules (again a three day trip), and on 23 November the main party left from Monterey by VC10. After almost two months away from home almost everyone was glad to be heading back home, even though California had proved a most diverting and challenging exercise.

The Brigade versus Monterey RFC. Lt Andrew Fletcher first in the line out, LCpl Al Hanlon about to throw the ball

Sig Bob Armstrong on shift in the 'radio shack' with an operator from 3 Bn 9 Regt

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GAMES CLUB FOR THE SUMMER SEASON 1987

The Summer Season has brought laudable success in a number of sports at Army Level and some extremely good individual performances. Of particular note was the performance in Athletics in which 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt became Army Major Unit Champions. The Corps has also maintained its high standard in Canoeing with 7 Sig Regt winning three team events and second place in another at the BAOR Sprint and Marathon Championships. 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt reflected that success in UK.

This season has been prolific in the number of individual successes throughout the various sports. Those of particular note are the performances in Athletics of **LCpl Callender** and **Sgt Killin** both of International standard. In canoeing **Sig Gargett** was first in the Army six miles slalom and **JLCpl Downey** shows considerable promise for the future.

UNITED KINGDOM

NOTABLE SUCCESSES

ATHLETICS

This season was particularly good for the Corps both in Individual and Team results. **LCpl Callender** (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt) and **Sgt Killin** (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt) are both International and Army Athletes as individuals in Senior events whilst in Junior events **Sig Milne, JL LCpl Haines** and **AT Dunbar** were all selected to represent the Army and Navy against Wales.

Army Champions are listed:-

LCpl Callender	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt	100m
Sig Ling	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt	800m
Sgt Killin	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt	110m Hurdles, Decathlon
Sig McSween	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt	Long Jump
WSgt Higgins	8 Sig Regt	400m
WCpl O'Pray	238 Sig Sqn	800m
WLCpl Fox	8 Sig Regt	Shot

Army Team Championships

Major Units	1st	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Minor Units	3rd	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)

Zone B Championships

Major Units	1st	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Minor Units	4th	AA Coll Harrogate

CRICKET

This was a season of mixed fortune but the Corps has two good quick opening bowlers in **Sig Taylor, Cpls Glean** and **Bascombe** toured the Carribean with the Army and **AT Johns** of AA College has also played for the Army this year. **Sig Lenny** (8 Sig Regt) has been selected to represent the Welsh under 19 on a tour of Barbados. **Lt Beard**, who recently attended his Troop Commanders Course is also Army standard.

The team this season won four matches drew three matches and lost four matches. Winning matches were against:-

REME	—	won by 91 runs
ACC	—	won by 8 wkts
RA	—	won by 59 runs
RE	—	won by 4 wkts (first win in 10 years!).

One new award for colours was given to **Sig Taylor**, School of Signals, second successful season.

Honorary Colours were awarded to **Cpl Ryan** (School of Signals) for his services to Corps Cricket over three seasons. **Cpl Glean** (School of Signals) was re-recommended for Colours for his high standard of bowling throughout the season.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

There was only one Corps Swimming Fixture in 1987 that being against RAF Command Signals at North Luffenham. Despite the Army Championships taking place the same weekend, the Corps won the Water Polo but narrowly lost the Swimming competition to the RAF. **Sig Beattie** was commended for his winning performances in 100yds butterfly and 4 × 500 yds Individual Medley Relay.

TENNIS

A mixed Season in tennis with many games decided by the last set. The Corps team won five matches and lost eight matches. Winning matches were:-

RA	—	won by 7 to 2
RAMC/ RAOC	—	won by 5 to 4
RMA	—	won by 7½ to 1½
Welbeck	—	won by 6 to 3
ACC	—	won by 5 to 4

PARACHUTING

The Blue Helmets successfully took part in some 10 displays, more could have been undertaken if operational commitments and bad weather had not restricted the team.

In competition, the Blue Helmets took part in the Rhine Army Championships, Army Championships and Cyprus Championships.

The most notable result was in the Rhine Army Championships (first year participation). 1st—Intermediate accuracy; 1st—Intermediate RW.

The Blue Helmets

MOTOR CYCLING

The season has seen reasonable success despite the late recovery of equipment damaged in a road traffic accident on the way to an event and the frequent absence of one of the top riders, **Sgt Thorsby**, on his Foreman of Signals Course.

Cpl Mosley was again selected to represent the Army at the International Six Day Enduro in Poland.

Of the 32 riders in 16 events, 4 Gold, 14 Silver and 4 Bronze medals were won.

CANOEING

This report covers notable results of individuals and units participation:-

UKLF Slalom Championships—Llandyssul
Mens K1: Winner—**Lt J. Bunce**,19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.
Junior K1: Second—**JLCpl D. Downey**, AA Coll Harrogate.
Mens C2: Winners—**LCpl Dobson/Cpl Eaton**, 2 Div Sigs/REME.
Senior Team: Winners—2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Junior Team: Winners—AA Coll Harrogate.

Army Slalom Championships—Bala
Men K1: Second—**LCpl A. Dobson**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Men C2: Winners—**LCpl Dobson/Cpl Eaton**, 2 Div Sigs/REME.
Team: Second—2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Army Sprint Racing Championships—Monmouth
Senior A K1: Winner—**Capt S. Jackson**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Junior K1: Winner—**JLCpl Downey**, AA Coll Harrogate.
Ladies K1: Winner—**Lt A. Mann**, 16 Sig Regt.
Senior C K2: Winners—**LCpl Dobson/LCpl Martin**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Senior Team: Winners—2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Army Marathon Championships—Monmouth
Senior A K2: Winners—**LCpl Lloyd/Cpl Tape**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Senior A K1: Winner—**Capt S. Jackson**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Senior C K2: Winners—**LCpl Dobson/LCpl Martin**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Senior C K1: Winner—**Cpl Wright**, 16 Sig Regt.
Junior K1: Winner—**JLCpl Downey**, AA Coll Harrogate.
Senior Team: Winners—2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Interservice Marathon Championships — Newark
Senior K1: Second—**Capt D. Jackson**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Senior K2: Second—**LCpl Lloyd/Cpl Tape**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Ladies K1: Winner—**Lt A. Mann**, 16 Sig Regt.

Interservice Sprint Championships—Nottingham
Senior K1: Winner—**Capt S. Jackson**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
Senior K2: Winners—**Capt Jackson/Capt Heath**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt/12 CTT.
Ladies K1: Second—**Lt A. Mann**, 16 Sig Regt.

Interservice Slalom Championships—Nottingham
Senior C2: Winners—**LCpl Dobson/Cpl Eaton**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt/REME.
Senior Team: Winners—Army A (with **LCpl Dobson**).

ARMY SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

School of Signals Regiment won the Championships (3—1) against SEME Bordon.

ORIENTEERING

5 AB Sig Sqn won the Army Minor Unit Championships.

SHOOTING

37 Sig Regt (V) won the TA SWDist SAAM Major Unit Championships for the second year running. **Capt Body** (7 Sig Regt) was third in the Army Target Rifle Championships (Match 100). He was also awarded the Army Team International Medal and was second in the Bulford Cup (by one point). **Cpl Alden** (7 Sig Regt) fired in the Army Ireland Composition Team finishing thirteenth.

BAOR

TENNIS

Capt (QM) W. V. Miles represented the Army against RAF at Rheindahlen and gained Army colours in a winning team.

CANOEING

Sig Gargett (22 Sig Regt) had a string of successes: **Royal Signals Championships**—1st 500m Slalom; 1st six mile Slalom. **Army Championships**—1st six mile Slalom; 2nd 500m Sprint.

7 Sig Regt won the Open Marathon, novice marathon and novice team and was second in the open team event in the BAOR Sprint and Marathon Championships.

JL Cpl Downey (AA Coll Harrogate) was sixth in the Interservices and Marathon Championships Senior Sprint race. This is an exceptional result for a junior.

In the Army Surf Canoe Championships **JL Cpl Downey** won the Royal Engineers Trophy. **AT Lewis-Walker** was Army Junior Surf Ski Champion. AA Coll Harrogate was first Team. In the same Championships 7 Sig Regt personnel gained: **2 Lt Cameron**—Silver novice ski winner; **Pte Pickford**—Silver novice slalom winner.

Capt King (28 Sig Regt) was Individual Novice Champion.

GLIDING

SSgt Grant (21 Sig Regt) achieved a 'Diamond Height' during an expedition to Systeron in France (ie a gain in height of over 5,000m), a notable achievement.

BAOR TEN MILE

7 Sig Regt were overall winners, **Sgt Carr** (7 Sig Regt) was first.

BASKETBALL

16 Sig Regt won the BAOR Championships having beaten teams from REME, ACC, RA, RE and RCT Corps.

ARMY MARATHON

Cpl James (7 Sig Regt) was second.

SWIMMING

LCpl Ledger (29 Sig Regt) was selected for the National Olympic Trial Squad. 29 Sig Regt were first in the Army Minor Unit Championships. AA Coll Harrogate were second in the Junior Championships.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Four out of six members of the Army team came from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

RESULTS

Army Individual Dinghy Champion—**WO2 (FofS) Harper** (School of Signals). BAOR Individual Dinghy Champion—**Capt G. Lewis-Taylor.**

INTER-CORPS

BAOR Dinghy Quadrangular
Won Quadrangular
Won Triangular

Seaview Triangular
1st RE)
2nd R Signals) very close result
3rd RA)

UK Dinghy League
Won four, lost three.

Royal Signals v RAF
At the recent Royal Signals v RAF Signals sports day, Royal Signals won the Dinghy sailing.

Corps
Winners: Corps Dinghy Regatta—**Sgt Cowell**, AAC Harrogate.
Seaview —3 Armd Div Sig Regt.
Baltic Regatta —**Cpl O'Connor**, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

SPORTS STOP PRESS

ARMY SURF CANOEING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

On return from our successful trip to Norway, members of the Canoeing Club were forced to dry their gills during Ex Certain Strike. No sooner was the exercise finished, however, and they were back into training; this time for the Army Surf Canoeing Championships being held in Devon in October.

The initial preparation consisted of early morning circuit training on the multi-gym in order to 'kick-start' the canoeing muscles and generally build up the strength and stamina needed for a surf competition. (Actual surf training was rather difficult as Krefeld has a distinct lack of good surf beaches). A week before the competition, however, the Team travelled back to UK to complete some serious training. The party consisted of the Adjutant, **Capt Paul King; SSgt Dave Orange APTC, Cpls Paul Dickinson, Nick Hawkins, 'Mal' McCallum, 'Scouse' Swain, LCpls Ian Hurt, Olly Jay REME** and **Sig Mark Coulson**.

A surf canoeing competition consists of two disciplines; surf kayak and surf ski. In the kayak event competitors paddle general purpose or heavy duty slalom canoes and score points by simply riding the waves. Each heat lasts 15 minutes and competitors are marked on their performance on 10 waves. The key to success is in choosing the best waves and then riding them for the longest distance and preferably finishing off with a trick to catch the judge's eye. The ski event is similar except for the craft. A ski is rather like a large surf board. The canoeist sits on the ski and is secured to it by straps at the ankles and across the thighs. He then paddles it like a canoe. At first it feels very unstable and extremely uncomfortable, but once mastered it is great fun, being highly manoeuvreable and fast!

The team was based on Penhale Camp, Newquay as this area offers the widest choice of surf beaches and provides easy access to the North and South Coasts, as well as Lands End. **Andy Parritt**, a civilian friend of the Adjutant, very kindly came along to provide expert tuition. With his local knowledge he was able to find good surf conditions every day, and the selection ranged from long clean waves to chaotic mountainous haystacks. **Cpl Paul 'No Surf' Dickinson** estimated the waves to be 30ft high one day, but he now confesses to having exaggerated; they were only 20ft!

At the end of a very concentrated week's training the team moved to Saunton Sands, Devon where the competition was to be held. The first day was very busy with the heats for both the novice and open events. There was a total of 180 entrants yet all the Regimental paddlers progressed to the next stage in either the kayak or ski events. This success was then repeated for the semi-finals and even the finals, and the Regiment swept the board by winning both the novice and open team titles, as well as several individual prizes. The hard training had paid off, and now all attention was turned to the next major competition: The BAOR White Water Canoeing Championships.

Army Surf Canoeing Champions 1987
Back Row from left to right: SSgt Orange, Sig Coulson, Cpl McCallum and Capt King
Front Row from left to right: LCpl Jay, Cpl Hawkins, Cpls Dickinson, Swain and LCpl Hurt

ARMY GOLF CHALLENGE CUP 1987

The final stages for this year's Championships took place at the Catterick Garrison Golf Club over two days, Thursday and Friday 7 and 8 October 1987. Eight Unit Teams qualified each representing their own Districts in the UK. After day one, a day of high winds and difficult conditions, albeit on a perfect course, 11 Sig Regt and 3 Bn Ulster Defence Regt were left to contest the final match which 11 Sig Regt won by 23 to 6.

NB: During the final round **WO2 Chris Carveth** (ex Army Captain) recorded a gross 66, one below the course record for Catterick.

11 Signal Regiment Winning Team
Left to Right: WO1 Dave Woodcroft, WO2 Chris Carveth, Lt Col Nick Fleming (V/Chairman AGA) Majs Terry Lightfoot and John Lent

BOBBING

The Royal Signals Bobsleigh Team competed in the British National Bobsleigh Championships held at Winterberg at the beginning of November. They were up against some very strong teams which included the Great Britain Olympic Team and the New Zealand Olympic Team as guest competitors. This gave our inexperienced crews a chance to test their Bobsleighing skills in a top competition. With more elaborate Bobs the opposition had a great advantage but due to enthusiasm instilled in the team by **Capt 'Cecil Slinger' Morphet** (Team Manager) they surpassed themselves. An unfortunate accident in the two man competition by **Cpl 'Crash' O'Connel** and **2Lt 'Slouch' Bosher** lost them first place. Our other crew, consisting of **Cpl 'Horrible' Horobin** and **Sig 'Sensuous' Austen** both of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt attained 20th place. When these four teamed up in the four-man championships eighth place was achieved. With the novice week following immediately afterwards, **LCpl 'Ollie' Holbourn**'s role was as a Royal Signals driving star. We would like to take this opportunity to wish the British National Team the best of luck in Calgary, Canada next year.

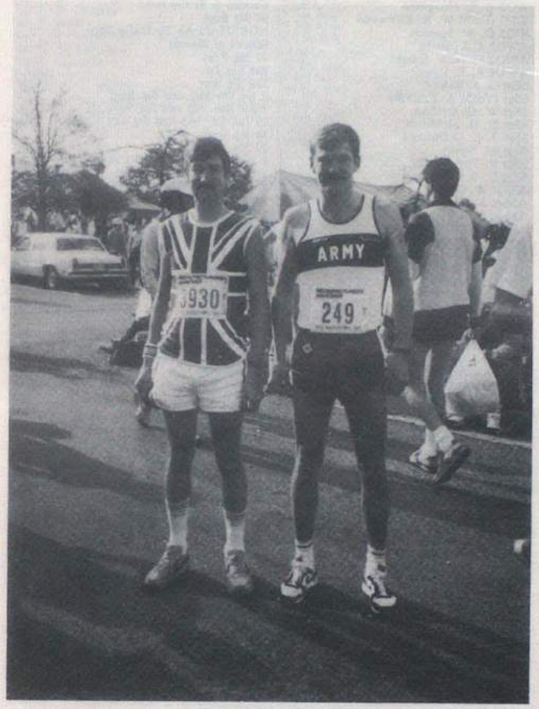
NEW YORK MARATHON

NEW YORK MARATHON

On an extremely hot day on 1 November 1987 23,000 runners took part in the New York Marathon which included two runners from the Corps and both did extremely well. **Sgt Dave Carr**, (7 Sig Regt), with a time of 2 hrs 28 min 13 sec was placed eighty-fifth overall and **Sgt Danny Chorlton** from Ashford Kent with a time of 3 hrs 21 min 39 sec.

Sgt Carr did particularly well maintaining a good position at the front but the combination of a fast start and the heat effected his performance.

Sgt Carr and **Sgt Chorlton** would like to thank **Mrs Brachman** and **Mr Parkinson** for their hospitality at the Soldiers Sailors and Airmens Club where they stayed in New York.



BRITISH ARMY POSTAGE STAMP ISSUE
13 APRIL 1988
ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
CENTENARY YEAR

The Centenary Year of the Army Football Association (FA) opened on 1 January 1988.

The Army FA, through the Army Postal Services, will make a Special Cover issue on 13 April 1988 to coincide with the Centenary Cup Final. Details covering the ordering of this issue will be circulated through normal military channels.

The 'logo' of the special envelope being prepared as part of the issue will include 'a footballer in action'. **Cpl A. 'Sandy' Brown**, R Sig (School of Signals), the Army FA Team Captain, has been chosen as the Footballer subject of the logo and it is he who will appear on the cover.

The Special Cover issue will be on sale at the Army Cup Final to be played at Aldershot on 13 April 1988.

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COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
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— Movements —

Officers

DECEMBER 1987	
Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt N. J. Bateson	School of Signals
Lt J. C. R. Bertram	30 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) B. K. Billsberry	21 Sig Regt
Capt C. N. Burthenshaw	HQ UKLF
Maj L. K. Byrne	14 Sig Regt
Maj T. W. Canham	MOD(PE)
Capt M. S. Castle-Smith	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt M. A. Coupar	8 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. M. Dyer	Staff College
Brig A. F. Eastburn	HQ Trg Gp R Sigs and Catterick Garrison
Maj N. F. Fisher	MOD(PE)
Maj A. D. Forster	DM(A)
Lt P. A. Graham	30 Sig Regt
Maj B. Hewitt	RSRE Malvern
Maj J. M. Hincks	HQ BAOR
Capt S. D. Hodges	2 Inf Div HQ (Forward Element)
Capt A. H. Johnstone	Misc Appts (Home)
Capt N. Keen	28 Sig Regt
Maj P. King	16 Sig Regt
Capt D. W. Larkam	8 Sig Regt
Capt G. R. Leyland	HQ 11 Sig Bde
Lt S. K. MacRostie	7 Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Madsen	14 Sig Regt
Capt R. G. Mather	HQ BF Belize
Brig R. F. Maynard	11 Sig Regt
Capt G. J. McNeill	21 Sig Regt
Capt C. W. S. Miller	210 Sig Sqn
Col E. Mulley	DSS(AD)
Col M. A. Payne	School of Signals
Lt D. S. Raleigh	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj T. P. Rimell	QMGs London Staff
Maj J. W. Rollins	HQ Int Corps Depot and Centre
Lt M. G. Shaw	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. W. Stabler	HQNI
Maj R. T. Weston	ACDS OR (Land)

JANUARY 1988	
Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt A. S. Addison	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt B. Alderson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt B. A. Appleby	22 Sig Regt
Col W. H. Backhouse	School of Signals
Lt W. S. Balding	259 Sig Sqn
Maj R. W. Batho	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Col B. L. Belton	11 Sig Regt
Lt M. G. Billingham	9 Sig Regt
Capt A. P. Bristow	7 Sig Regt
Col J. D. Bromley	HQ BAOR
Lt Col (TOT) D. Brown	608 Sig Tp
Capt L. P. Brownlee	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj H. N. S. Colborn	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt G. J. Complin	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj B. A. Coram	Project Wavell Mil Team
Maj M. J. Dent	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. H. Eaton	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. J. J. Ellis	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj A. T. Evans	28 Sig Regt
Capt A. Field	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj I. R. Fielder	MOD (PE)
2Lt R. B. Forrest	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner	33 Sig Regt (V)
Maj R. A. J. Gardner	HQ NORTHAG Staff (BAE)
Maj C. B. Greig	MOD (PE)
Maj P. J. Grey	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj M. N. Grieves	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj I. W. Griffiths	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj W. A. C. Griffiths	11 Sig Regt
Lt G. Hearn	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. N. Henwood	HQ 12 Sig Bde
Maj N. K. P. Hope	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt A. M. Johnson	212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Capt S. W. Jones	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt R. J. Kinnaird	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt M. V. Ledwards	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj O. M. Lewis	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj A. M. Lovatt	11 Sig Regt
Capt S. P. R. Lowe	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj T. R. Manders	22 Sig Regt
Maj C. C. McColville	29 Sig Regt
Lt J. A. McDonnell	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj D. McDowall	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt D. M. Mills	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Col J. E. Neeve	DOAE
Capt P. J. Oldfield	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col A. J. Raper	BDLS Australia
Maj T. E. M. Richardson	MOD
2Lt A. P. Scott	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj A. R. D. Shirreff	HQ 33 Armd Bde
Capt P. Stephenson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Col M. V. Upson TD	HQ Londist
Lt N. A. Walker	11 Sig Regt
2Lt I. A. Walton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Col P. Webb	MOD
Maj J. M. Willis	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt S. S. M. Youngston	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

WOs and SNCOs

NOVEMBER 1987	
Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
ASgt M. Black	28 CTT (Chester)

DECEMBER 1987	
Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 P. O. Whitbread	DAMA
AWO1 D. A. Hogben	33 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 W. A. Gibbons	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 A. S. Houghton	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 (FofS) W. R. Kirkwood	30 Sig Regt
WO2 D. W. Sparkes	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
AWO2 J. R. Bathe	School of Signals
AWO2 G. N. F. Knight	30 Sig Regt
AWO2 K. F. Pywell	633 Sig Tp
SSgt G. J. Baldry	238 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) A. F. Crilly	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt W. G. Graham	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt D. O. McMillan	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt J. G. O'Donnell	14 Sig Regt
SSgt M. Smith	22 Sig Regt
SSgt P. Taylor	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt D. R. Toleman	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
ASSgt W. Gray	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. M. Malloy	34 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt K. P. Nelson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt R. Robinson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Blakley	29 Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. Bungay	29 Sig Regt
Sgt D. L. Bunt	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Clarke	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. H. Dobson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. F. Gibson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Gillard	7 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Glover	30 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Greaves	ACIO Stoke on Trent
Sgt S. J. Holden	BR Contingent UNFICYP
Sgt S. L. Hutchinson	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. R. McAlroy	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. L. McKenna	8 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Mercer	ACIO Sheffield
Sgt K. Miller	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. N. Morrison	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. J. M. Muir	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt W. S. Phillips	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. B. Roxburgh	633 Sig Tp
Sgt C. Smith	11 Sig Regt
Sgt A. D. Young	16 Sig Regt
ASgt A. M. Carver	Comms & Sy GP (UK)
ASgt K. J. Dobson	Army Apprentices College
ASgt J. M. Hugill	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt R. Innes	569 RLD
ASgt G. O. Miles	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt K. O'Riordan	40 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt D. P. Rickard	8 Sig Regt
ASgt M. T. Thompson	8 Sig Regt
ASgt C. Williams	35 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt M. J. Winkler	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

JANUARY 1988	
Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 C. Beston	22 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) D. C. A. Ellis	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 R. Iredale	8 Sig Regt
WO1 (YofS) R. L. Waller	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
AWO1 (YofS) M. Finch	14 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) B. E. Lawrence	SHAPE
AWO1 J. P. Mold	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
AWO1 R. T. O'Hara	Defence Export Service Organisation
WO2 (YofS) C. P. Aitken	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) J. H. Chilcott	LSP Oman
WO2 T. Jones	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 C. A. Maycock	UNIFICYP
WO2 (FofS) A. Roberts	SANGCOM
WO2 (YofS) A. R. Small	RACISG
WO2 (FofS) C. J. Turner	30 Sig Regt
WO2 M. Willoughby	16 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. G. G. Corsar	37 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 (YofS) K. Jones	HAC
AWO2 (FofS) J. P. Martin	School of Signals
AWO2 (FofS) H. C. Morrison	30 Sig Regt
AWO2 P. R. Rumsey	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 S. M. Toms	30 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) M. G. Webb	264 Sig Sqn
SSgt A. J. Amplett	22 Sig Regt
SSgt D. T. Arundel	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt G. S. H. Beattie	School of Signals
SSgt I. D. Blacklaw	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Bradbury	21 Sig Regt
SSgt T. Broomfield	BMATT Zimbabwe
SSgt W. Craig	HQ NI
SSgt T. German	14 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Graley	21 Sig Regt
SSgt W. J. Haslam	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. M. Jamieson	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt D. S. Jevons	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt G. B. O'Sullivan	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. D. Parish	249 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. F. Preen	PWSST
SSgt P. D. Stemmer	633 Sig Tp

SSgt A. Wise	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt S. M. Wright	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. G. Allen	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt G. E. Annetts	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. J. Case	41 Sig Gp
ASSgt P. A. Cooper	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt S. J. Driver	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt S. E. Hatfield	242 Sig Sqn
ASSgt S. Kassim	29 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. H. Lawrence	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. H. Martin	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt T. R. Payne	71 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt K. M. Perkins	QG Signals
ASSgt S. E. Piddock	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt P. Richardson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt R. C. Shortis	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt D. B. Showell	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt M. L. Swallow	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. W. Thomas	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt K. C. Truby	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt P. A. Archibald	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. G. Bowlby	14 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Buff	29 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Cambridge	94 Loc Reg
Sgt D. K. Chorlton	School of Signals
Sgt R. Counley	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Couston	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt M. R. C. Davies	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. B. Duckworth	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Gibson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Grandison	7 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Haigh	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Hogan	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. Holder	641 Sig Tp
Sgt R. S. Jarvis	30 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Jones	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Knight	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. R. Lund	21 Sig Regt
Sgt W. R. J. McIntyre	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt G. R. McLaughlan	22 Sig Regt
Sgt G. T. Marsh	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt D. G. Mason	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. Msw	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. G. Millar	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. O'Kane	QG Signals
Sgt R. J. Pickering	14 Sig Regt
Sgt M. T. Postage	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. G. A. Reith	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Roberts	QGS
Sgt S. D. Rowe	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Shorter	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. F. Simpson	QG Signals
Sgt S. F. Slade	22 Sig Regt
Sgt C. P. Talbot	13 Sig Regt
Sgt C. P. Thompson	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt F. Thompson	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. J. Tillman	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. Usher	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt M. P. Waclawek	QG Signals
Sgt M. R. Williams	Int & Sy Gp (NI)
ASgt N. J. Baln	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. W. Gould	13 Sig Regt
ASgt D. W. Haley	7 Sig Regt
ASgt D. Harris	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt S. W. Leather	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt M. D. McFeeley	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt P. J. Neves	32 Hy Regt
ASgt P. A. Szczesiak	HQ AFCENT Sp GP
ASgt C. J. Sinclair	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
ASgt G. Tock	7 Sig Regt
ASgt J. B. M. Wood	13 Sig Regt

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, Combined Service Publications, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1987:

Bramhall and District Round Table	£200.00
Lisburn Garrison	£ 71.33
89 Sig Sqn	£ 44.78
No 4 Coy 2 AF Sig	£ 41.00
J. L. Power	£ 12.00
S. P. Halsey	£ 7.00
J. A. Speers	£ 5.80
P. D. Merrett	£ 2.50
Misc	£ 1.00
	£385.41

The following donations were gratefully received during the month of December 1987:

Mrs J. M. Jackson	£250.00
RSA 56 Div	£100.00
Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE	£ 75.00
RSA Aberdeen	£ 45.00
E. B. Fladgate	£ 20.00
A. M. Lynch	£ 20.00
R. N. Hutchings	£ 20.00
G. L. Collier	£ 6.50
P. B. Cairns	£ 5.80
G. R. Thornton	£ 5.50
G. S. Dawson	£ 5.00
J. S. W. Imrie	£ 5.00
F. E. Stagg	£ 5.00
G. A. Jenkins	£ 4.00
G. W. Little	£ 2.00
Misc	£ 1.47
	£570.27

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Rank . . . . . Name . . . . . .

Address (incl Post Code) . . . . . .

. . . . . .

NOTICES

DEATHS

Brader—Lt Col R. W. P. Brader—served 1935-64—died 28 December 1987.
Brice—Maj S. A. Brice—seried 1951-1985—died 24 December 1987.
Brown—Lt Col E. N. L. Brown—served 1938-71—died 3 October 1987.
Brown—ex SSgt W. C. Brown—served 1931—died 6 October 1987.
Bush—ex Sig A. E. A. Bush—died 15 December 1987.
Capewell—Capt J. A. Capewell—served 1950-1966—died November 1987.
Clark—ex Sgt D. M. Clark—served 1934—died 11 September 1987.
Cole—ex Sgt J. Cole—served 1941—died 4 November 1987.
Constantine—ex SSgt H. G. Constantine—served 1946—died 26 October 1987.
Copp—ex WO1 D. G. Copp—served 1921—died 28 September 1987.
Cox—Capt F. A. Cox—died 9 June 1987.
Dickenson—ex WO2 D. A. Dickenson—served 1933—died 1 November 1987.
Frettingham—ex Lt A. W. Frettingham—died 10 September 1987.
Green—ex CQMS D. R. Green—served 1922—15 October 1987.
Griffith—ex Cpl E. F. Griffith—served 1936—15 November 1987.
Hall—Maj H. F. Hall—died 26 July 1987.
Hammerton—ex SSgt J. Hammerton—served 1924—died 7 November 1987.
Hardy—Capt F. G. Hardy—served 1939-73—died 28 December 1987.
Haslam—Lt (Hon Capt) T. Haslam—died 3 September 1987.
Hayes—ex AL/Sgt F. W. Hayes BEM—served 1939-45—died 11 November 1987.
Howard—ex WO2 L. Howard—served—died 25 October 1987.
Killian—ex Cpl J. Killian—served 1923—died 20 November 1987.
Lanyon—ex WO1 D. E. G. Lanyon—served—died 30 October 1987.
Manchett—ex LCpl W. H. Manchett—served 1919—died 20 October 1987.
Matthew—Maj E. F. Matthew—served 1940-1974—died 11 January 1988.
McGrath—Maj J. R. M. McGrath—died 12 December 1987.
McInnes—ex WO1 R. B. McInnes—served 1962—died 13 October 1987.
McKeever—ex WO2 A. McKeever—died 23 May 1987.
McKowen—Maj G. H. McKowen MBE—served 1925-48—died 22 December 1987.
Melvin—ex Sgt T. S. Melvin—died 18 August 1987.
Miles—ex SSgt T. D. Miles—died 29 September 1987.
Moores—Lt Col P. R. Moores—died 19 August 1987.
Neish—ex Sig A. Neish—served 1935—died 29 September 1987.
Niven—Col T. M. Niven CB, TD, DL—served 1920—died 21 October 1987.
Ockenden—ex Cpl H. J. Ockenden—served 1920—died 21 October 1987.
Paris—Maj A. G. Paris—served 1935-70—died 27 November 1987.
Pavey—Mrs Lilian Pavey, wife of **Maj F. J. Pavey MBE**—died 16 December 1987.
Rowden—Capt W. C. Rowden—died 15 September 1987.
Salter—Lt Col A. S. P. Salter—died November 1987.
Simms—ex Sig G. Simms—served 1953-58—died 9 December 1987.
Smith—Sgt B. A. Smith—died November 1987.
Stanton—Lt Col Dr E. P. Stanton MBE—died 19 November 1987.
Stewart—Maj J. B. Steward—died 10 August 1987.
Swan—ex Cpl T. F. W. Swan—served—died 21 November 1987.
Sykes—Capt W. Sykes MBE—died 9 October 1987.
Sylvester-Bradley—Maj J. T. R. Sylvester-Bradley—served 1942-66—died 3 September 1987.
Taylor—Capt E. S. Taylor—died 8 November 1987.
Taylor—ex Sig W. J. Taylor—served—died 23 November 1987.
Thompson—ex Sgt Maj D. O. Thompson—served 1948—died 19 November 1987.
Thompson—Lt L. Thompson—14 August 1987.
Wagner—F. L. Wagner—served 1929—died 20 October 1987.
Warburg—Brig T. R. Warburg CBE—served 1938-74—died November 1987.
Wattle—Maj W. R. Wattle ERD—died 4 December 1987.
Wilkins—ex L/Sgt W. H. Wilkins—served 1926-38—died 5 December 1987.
Williams—Maj N. R. Williams MC, TD, ERD—died 30 December 1987.

OBITUARIES

Bosten — ex WO1 A. E. T. Bosten died suddenly at his home on 14 December 1987. He served in the Corps from 1934-1964, his last appointment was as RSM, 50 (N) Sig Regt (V). **Ted Bosten** was an active member of the RSA Darlington Branch serving on the General Committee from 1973. He was Chairman of the Branch from 1976 to 1978. A popular member, he will be much missed by his many friends. Several members of Darlington Branch attended his funeral.

Calveley—Col C. E. Calveley OBE ERD. Col Calveley who died on 3 December 1987 was commissioned into Royal Signals in 1938. He saw service with the BEF in France before taking up a variety of staff appointments in the UK. He was appointed ADC in 1952. After the war he served with the TA. In parallel with this, his career in Telecommunications in the Post Office was also notable. He was Principal of the Central Training School at Stone when it was first established in 1946—later Staff Engineer of the Telephone Development and Maintenance Branch in the City and for a while Chief Motor Transport Officer and returned as Director of Development.

Apart from his considerable technical expertise he will be remembered as a warm hearted and ever helpful friend and one who never forgot that an officer's first duty was the well being of his men.

Grant—LCpl J. A. Grant. It is with much sadness and deep regret that we report the tragic death of **John Grant** in a car accident on Sunday 22 November 1987.

John enlisted into the Royal Signals on 28 October 1985 and underwent basic training at 11 Sig Regt during the period November 1985 to March 1986. He continued his training for a further eight months at 8 Sig Regt before he was posted to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in January 1987.

John very quickly proved himself to be an excellent tradesman, both as a Terminal Equipment Technician and also as a Wavell Operator. His expertise at all aspects of his trade was very evident by his swift progression to T2 grade and he had shown that he understood the Wavell System better than most.

He was keen on all sports and was an excellent Water Polo player, having represented the Army UK and Corps sides.

John was a single soldier and he will be greatly missed by his many friends. We send our heartfelt sympathy to all members of his family.

Gregory—Maj George Gregory DCM. 'Greg' died peacefully at his home in Bromborough, Wirral, on 2 November 1987.

Born in 1897 he joined the LIR at Chelsea in September 1914. In June 1916 he embarked for France and from July to October 1916 was in the trenches near Mt St Eloi. In November he embarked again, at Marseilles for Salonica and remained in the Middle East until September 1918. Though he spoke sparingly about this period, the log which he kept of his service and movements contains some very significant entries: '30 October 1917 in front of Beersheba (attack started 0600 hrs 31 October 1917); 6 November—Moved off for attack at 0300 hrs and captured first objective about 1300 hrs; 13 November—Moved to Tel el Hesy—(had a wash); 25 November—Up into line near Eminaus; 8 December—Up and over at Liver Redoubt; 23 December—Attacked at dawn (unlucky); 20 March 1918—Moved off for Jordan attack; 29 March—Move off for attack on Amman; 1 May—attack Billee Bil'. In the midst of continual movement and action he was presented with the DCM by the Duke of Connaught having been recommended for the award in November 1917 for, as discovered subsequently and, indirectly, going out under fire to bring back a wounded comrade.

After demobilisation he did not remain a civilian for long. In October 1919 he joined the Signals RE, was promoted to Lance Sergeant in 1923 and in 1925 was training horses for the Royal Tournament. There was more foreign service from 1929 to 1934 in India mainly at Jubbulpore. In 1935 he was appointed CQMS and the following year was promoted WO2 (CSM). For the second time he left the army in 1937 and started work with Tate and Lyle but having enlisted in Class E Reserve he was recalled to the colours on 1 September 1939. In November he was RQMS at 152 OCTU, then in 1940 RSM at the 2 Depot Bn at Prestatyn. From there he moved in 1941 to be Lieutenant (QM at 1 Cdo Sigs and at the end of that year became Major and in 1942 took over command of 2 Coy. After the disbandment of 1 Cdo Sigs he had a number of postings, now as WS/Captain, and after assuming command of 'S' Area Sigs in 1944 finally was released from service in July 1945. He returned to work at Tate and Lyle until he took well earned but very active retirement during which he was assiduous in keeping in touch with his many friends, writing to them, phoning, visiting and welcoming them to his home. What a privilege it is to be one of those friends. **Greg** will be remembered by all who knew him as a fine soldier, a modest gentleman and a true friend. To the end he retained his remarkable memory and his great sense of humour. Our sympathy is extended to his widow, **Anne** (whom he married in 1925), his son and daughter, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Reynolds — Dr G. F. Reynolds died on 25 September 1987. He was a notable research scientist who served in the Corps during the last war (1940-46). He became a specialist in long distance line communications, with special responsibility for secure systems; he built special terminal equipment vehicles for the campaign in Europe. He landed in Normandy on D-Day and in 1945 was in Berlin where he was involved in the arrangements for the Potsdam conference. After the war he became a distinguished research scientist and was a permanent member of the academic staff at Reading University.

MEMORIAL SERVICE—MAJ G. R. FUNNELL

A Memorial Service for **Maj G. R. Funnell** will be held at St Christopher's Church, Dempsey Barracks, Sennelager, on Monday 21 March 1988, at 12 noon. Inquiries to the Brigade and Battlegroup Trainer. Tel: Sennelager Mil 2737.

FOR SALE

32 Sig Reg(V) Piper Cap Badges—Price £5.50 plus 50p p&p available from Quartermaster, 32 Sig Regt (V), 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow G20 6JT. (Tel 041-339-8401).

A Ladies Corps Brooch—We have been asked to offer for sale a Ladies Corps Brooch, pre 1945 design. It is of diamonds and dark blue enamel set in platinum and insured for £1,000. It is offered at £350. If anyone is interested a viewing can be arranged in RHQ, by appointment.

SNCO Mess Kit: Jacket 42in chest, trousers 30in inside leg, waist 35in with Jimmies, SSgt chevron, crown. Height 5ft 10in-5ft 11in. £50. Contact ex **SSgt D. Lamont**, 7 Heather Drive, Lindford, Hants GU35 0RN. Tel: (04203) 2997.

REUNIONS

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 W1R 8LS. Tel: 01-434-1551/8—(Managing Director **Morris Perry**).

3 DIV SIGS REUNION CLUB AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER

The 36th AGM and Annual Dinner will take place at the Victory (Services) Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday 26 March 1988.

Ladies and guests are invited to be present on this occasion. Details of the Reunion may be obtained from the Chairman, **Maj K. N. Smartt**, 'Imber', Millway Road, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3EU. Past and present members of the Division will be most welcome.

51st HIGHLAND DIVISION OUISTREHAM CHURCH MEMORIAL WINDOW

The unveiling of this window is planned to take place on or about 6 June 1988. Former members of the Division interested in attending the ceremony under their own arrangements or by taking part in a four day Battlefield Tour of Normandy from London (Travel/Accommodation/Half Board approximately £200) should contact: **Lt Col (Retd) A. Rose**, HQ Scotland, Edinburgh EH1 2YX by 1 April 1988.

CORPS DATES

Application forms for tickets are being distributed with the Winter issue of the Journal of the Institution. For those who do not receive the Journal application forms may be obtained from RHQ.

CORPS DINNER

The dinner will be held at The London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4, on Tuesday 10 May 1988 at 1900 for 1930 hrs. Dress: Dinner Jacket.

The price of the dinner is £13.50 which includes pre-dinner drinks and the cost of wines at the table.

All Royal Signals officers, Regular or Territorial, serving or retired are eligible to attend. WRAC officers serving with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend.

Application for tickets to The Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. **Cheques should be made payable to 'HQ Mess, Royal Signals'.**

CORPS LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be held at the Headquarters Mess, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, on Saturday, 18 June 1988 at 1200 for 1300 hrs. Dress: Lounge suit.

The cost is £10 which includes pre-luncheon drinks and the cost of wines at the table.

All Royal Signals officers, Regular or Territorial, serving or retired, their wives and grown up children are eligible to attend. WRAC officers serving and retired with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend. The widows of Regular officers are invited as guests of the Corps. As far as possible invitations are sent directly to widows, but any reader who is aware of a widow not having received an invitation is asked to notify the Regimental Secretary of the widow's name and address. Private guests may also be invited.

Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.

HM THE QUEEN'S PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal GCVO may attend the Garden Party on Tuesday 19 July 1988.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date are asked to notify the Regimental Secretary 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 Colonel-in-Chief.

PERSONAL

6 BOYS TRAINING REGIMENT—DENBURY 1955

Mr Winston V. Manning would like to hear from any of his former comrades who served with him from 1956-1965 in the following places:- Denbury 1956-1959; Newark; 212 Sig Sqn Osnabruck 1959-1963; 46 Sqn RASC (LCT's) at Gosport 1963-65. **Winston V. Manning** (ex Cpl 'Paddy'), 129 Oakburn Road Kanata, Ontario K2L 1E5, Canada.

SUDAN SIG SQN—KHARTOUM 1951

Ex-members of the Sudan Sig Sqn—Khartoum 1951 are asked to get in touch with **Mr R. Shead**, 32767 Bellevue Crescent, Abbotsford BC, Canada V2S 5K3.

CORPS GOODS

Goods which were sold at RHQ will now be sold from the Museum. Orders/enquiries should be addressed to:
Corps Enterprises, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH, or by Telephone (0258) 52581 Ext 2413

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, 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.

LETTERS

From: Maj R. C. Brodie

Dear Sir,

VISITS TO COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES CEMETERIES IN THE FAR EAST

I believe readers of *The Wire* would be interested to know that on 11 November 1987 a party of 20 Loan Service Personnel serving with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces visited the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery on Labuan island. Included in the party and representing the Corps were **Maj Alistair Clark** and myself.

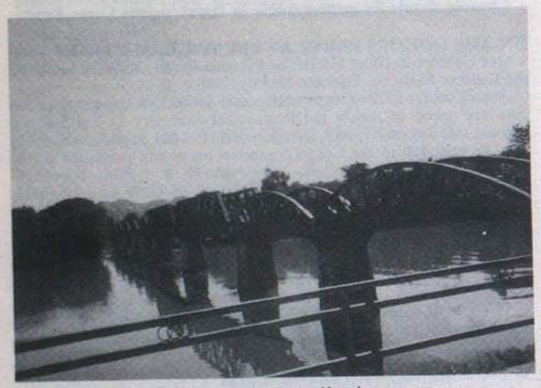
We held a short Act of Remembrance conducted by the resident Anglican vicar, **Rev William Woon**, the silence was observed at 1100 hrs local time and was followed by the Lament, Flowers of the Forest, played by **Pipe Maj Henderson,** Gordon Highlanders. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Loan Servicemen in Brunei and the Old Comrades Association of Brunei.

In October, my wife **Dot** and I were fortunate enough to spend a leave in Thailand and we visited the Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries at Kanchanaburi and Chungkai (near the River Kwai).

During the visits to all three cemeteries, we found them to be in an excellent state of maintenance and I would like to reassure any readers of *The Wire* who have relatives, loved ones or comrades resting in any of these cemeteries that they are being very well cared for and their memory lives on.

Yours sincerely,
R. C. Brodie

Ministry of Defence
Negara Brunei Darussalam
BFPO 605



Bridge on the River Kwai

Labuan Cemetery

Chungkai Cemetery

From: Maj B. E. Sykes

Dear Sir,

Your article on 'Bruin' (*The Wire*, p348, July 1987) could not fail to interest me, because we served together during the critical years 1954-56, which covered the move of the regiment (18 Army Group, as it then was) from Herford to Essen-Kray, bear and all, and the German's successful application for his return.

In the prevailing political and economic climate, there was little to suggest that Bruin's rightful owners would give us a full-scale replica (as they ultimately did), so it was decided to have a silver model made in order to perpetuate his memory. Accordingly, I climbed on to the cab of a truck and photographed him from every angle, using my new 'Rolleiflex' (£45 from NAAFI: those were the days!) We then placed an order with Garrards, and in due course I went to London on some other duty that left me ample time to inspect the silversmith's work. It proved to be admirable, and the finished article subsequently appeared on the officers' mess dinner table.

Perhaps you, Sir, can tell your readers where the work of art has got to, now that the regiment has been disbanded?

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully
Edward Sykes

13 rue Montgermont
77690 Montigny-sur-Loing
France

Maj Sykes, and others no doubt, will be pleased to know that the Silver Bruin is now at Blandford. — Editor.

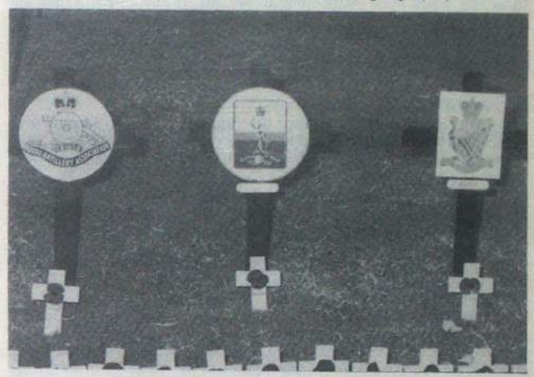
REPORT FROM ULSTER

HQ Northern Ireland
BFPO 825

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Remembrance Sunday in Northern Ireland is always an important date; 1987 will be marked for ever by the tragedy at Enniskillen. To commemorate the memory of those members of the Corps who have given their lives for our country, a simple ceremony was held at the Belfast City Hall where Remembrance Crosses were placed on the Corps Memorial by Comd Comms NI, **Lt Col M. W. H. Roberts MBE**, on behalf of those serving, and by **Jim Anderson** on behalf of the Royal Signals Association. We also remember in particular those members of the Corps who have given their lives whilst serving in Northern Ireland, since the current troubles began.

13 September 1969	**LCpl M. Spurway**	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2 November 1971	**Sig P. S. Genge**	5 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
6 November 1973	**Cpl J. Alkman**	233 Sig Sqn (NI)
24 October 1975	**Sgt D. J. Bassford**	233 Sig Sqn (NI)
7 January 1976	**Cpl A. K. Ford**	Attached (observer) with 662 Sqn AAC
13 March 1976	**Sig D. L. Roberts**	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
25 February 1979	**LCpl R. A. Davies**	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2 August 1979	**Sig P. J. Reece**	Attached with 321 EOD Coy RAOC
18 February 1980	**LCpl R. H. Lister**	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
October 1980	**LCpl P. J. Holt**	1 SCT SMIU
4 July 1981	**Sig B. R. Cross**	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
1 April 1982	**Cpl M. Ward**	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
23 May 1983	**Sgt L. J. McKenzie**	Attached with 321 EOD Coy RAOC
23 March 1985	**Cpl R. Marland**	Comms Branch HQNI
28 March 1985	**Sig K. J. Royal**	233 Sig Sqn (NI)



8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

REPORTS

Another action packed issue, with an unusual slant. This month we have an article giving a flavour of what a cook's life is like here in Londonderry. In 8 Bde we pride ourselves on being a flexible Unit, notwithstanding the 10 cap-badges which make up the Squadron and we all have a part to play. We go on with a visit from the CLF to another hill-top site (he likes them!), and a short report from the OC on the exploits of our successful orienteering squad. We do make time for sport when we can but it's not always easy to find the time.

ORIENTEERING
A REPORT FROM THE FOREST
SQUADRON TEAM: **Maj Hope**
WO2 (FofS) Baugh (Team Captain)
SSgt Leighfield
Sgt Harris
LCpl Wood

A quick glance at the ranks of the Squadron Team shows how broadly based Unit interest is in this sport. There are still vacancies for Captains, Lieutenants and Private soldiers—any takers? The team does not get many opportunities to compete in local events, due to security restrictions. However we have managed to get round this occasionally. Last year we entered the Northern Ireland Regional Championships as a team with the name of the 'Derry Dodgers'. A cast iron 'cover story' you might think—only one snag—one of the team signed himself 'Taff Williams'!

This year the team was selected from the Inter Troop Competition. **Cpl Nix** was the individual winner and SHQ the winning team. Recently we went to the Royal Signals Championships held near Middlesborough and Scarborough. Often the hardest checkpoint to find is the venue itself. We were split into two teams; old men and the young thrusters. Considering the limited training opportunities over here the teams produced commendable results:-

Old Men	4th
Young Thrusters	6th

We were lying second at the end of Day One but a heavy training session that night seemed to take the edge off both teams on Day Two.

We are now looking forward to the NI Army Championships in April 1988 and a chance to qualify for the UKLF and Army Championships later in the year. Any volunteers please report to **FofS Baugh** now or speak to your Chief Clerk about a posting to sunny Londonderry. Remember—Orienteers do it in the country!

CATERING DEPT

As usual at this time of the year, the Catering Tp is extra busy preparing for the annual onslaught of Christmas dinners and buffets. However this has not interfered with the daily 'routine' of the Richmond Restaurant. The definition of 'routine' here is: 'doing anything except what you were expecting to do'; with the assistance of the Green Team the chefs are liable to be transported to one of the city locations to give assistance to the chefs of 1st Bn Green Howards with just enough notice to don your Ineba Jacket. This is not entirely unwelcome in the eyes of some of the Troop for a variety of reasons; **Pte 'Ginge' Platts** has discovered that BFTs do not take place in Fort George especially whilst he is practising being a mushroom on the night shift. **Pte Colin Hunt** thrives on visits to the locations as it gives him a chance to practise his soldiering techniques by going out with the patrols but wherever **Pte Hunt** is, trouble seems sure to find him.

Did you ask where **Pte Hunt** is at present? Why, in Musgrave Park Hospital of course.

With the exception of **Pte 'Jock' Van Leirop**, who has discovered that there are no discos and no female company in the locations, the rest of the Troop enjoy tours in the city locations for the simple reason that at the end of four weeks toil, they get 10 day's leave.

Catering Troop's latest aquisition is **Sgt Bob Freeman** who has just arrived from FSS Shetland, and asked if he would like a tour in this location answered that he would sooner pull straws for his chance to leave. Which is just as well because he is convinced (by Shetland standards) that two is a crowd and three is a riot and stares in amazement at trains and buses!

The Troop has said farewell to **Sgt Brian Longworth** and **LCpl Dougie McGuigan** and wishes them all the best in their new postings.

With the pressures of work looming ahead, ie, it's nearly tea break, these few notes must sadly come to an end. If any catering men are out there, and let's face it, no-one likes their present posting (funny how you always say how good your last posting was when you get to your new Unit isn't it?), ask for a posting to us. We promise you won't be bored and you won't just cook for us either.

SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

On the evening of 9 October the Squadron held a Sportsman's Dinner in the Waterside Inn. The dinners are held twice a year, once at the end of the summer sporting months, and once at the end of the winter sporting months.

The aim of these occasions, is to honour all the Squadron athletes for their efforts over the preceeding months. On this particular occasion it was decided to present not only Squadron colours but also trophies for the Squadron Inter Troop Sports Competition, the Annual Squadron Battlecamp Patrol Competition and the best Battle Shot on Battlecamp. **Lt Col Shuker**, CO, 40 Sig Regt (V) kindly agreed to present the trophies and colours on the night.

The Squadron duly paraded in the Waterside at 2000 hrs, all smartly dressed, (tie included). Dinner was called at 2030 hrs, after the RSM had informed all present that wine only would be drunk at the table. After a fine four-course meal, the Squadron was called to order by the OC in preparation for the after dinner speech rendered by our guest of honour.

The trophies and colours were then presented. There isn't enough room here to name all recipients; however special mention must be made of **Cpl McNaught**'s patrol which won the Patrol Competition, and **Cpl McNaught** again for being the best battle shot. In the same breath we must mention the shooting team, **SSgt 'Boo Boo' Bennett, SSgt 'Bungle' Leighfield, Cpl 'Taff' Shaw, Cpl 'Scouse' Hornby, LCpl 'Wild Bill' Dodd** and **Sig 'Pretty Boy' Scott** for their fine efforts in the summer in winning the Corps Minor Units Team Championships. It would not be right if the author did not mention that SHQ/Bde HQ Tp won the Inter Troop Sports Competition picking up the Cricket and Swimming trophies so the 21C isn't going to mention it.

After the trophies had been presented, it was all back to the bar to put the world to rights. **Lt Col Shuker** must surely have regretted telling the RSM that he was partial to Black Bush, especially after being positioned on a chair and asked to show us all how much he liked it. A good night was had by all.

VISIT BY CLF, MAJ GEN R. J. HODGES CBE

On 4 November, the CLF paid his second visit to the Squadron in five months. We believe our popularity is due to our utter professionalism! However complacency is not a word in our dictionary and so meticulous planning went ahead as usual. The hill-top site was secured, teams moved in from Londonderry to greet the CLF on arrival when—yes, you've guessed, the weather closed in. The RAF played a 'blinder' for a change and landed their passengers at the bottom of the site where they were met by our Green Team and escorted successfully to the top. A visit to the site and its communications facilities followed. **Sgt Dave Cumming** and **Sig Paul Drummond** talked the CLF through the role of the site—well **Drummond** did because **Sgt Cumming** had had his teeth removed that morning (what timing!).

The CLF then called on Comms Tp to see the emergency operations room they had set up. **Cpl Clark** and **LCpl Martin**, well supervised by their Troop Sergeant explained how they could deploy at short notice and temporarily replace an Ops Room in any emergency.

Soon afterwards, the CLF pinned **WO2 (FofS) 'Noddy' Baugh** in a corner and the visit was renamed by the 2IC as 'The CLF's visit to **Foreman Baugh**—4 November 1987'. It would be wrong not to mention our gallant men in green who made the visit possible, so well done to **Cpl Speight, Pte Wood, LCpl Bird, Sigs Goodhand, Rickett, LCpl Haggart, Ptes McMahon** and **Blake**.

CLF thanks the Green Team after escorting him to the Hill Top Site—it really was a filthy day! (weather-wise, of course)

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39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

GENERAL

The Squadron has had its less busy periods operationally this year but it has been actively involved in the other aspects of life. Recently there has been success on the sporting field (how different!), commitments to various demonstrations, visits, recruiting and also to adventurous training.

At present the whole Squadron is preparing for what can only be described as the Christmas silly-season, with increased activity from certain factions of the population just to keep life unpredictable.

COMMS TROOP

There have been no operational crises for the Troop but a large turnover of personalities has occurred. Our strength has been reduced, mainly due to a commitment to EOD training and the effects of a new establishment.

We have been involved in a few Comms Trials in the past month notably in West Belfast with the Belfast Roulement Battalion—2LI. Four of the Troop namely **Cpls 'Mitch' Mitchell, 'Nose' Ferris, LCpl 'Taff' Donne** and **Sig Clive Hallett** braved the streets and reported on the Battalion's communications.

Other spheres of operations have been with the Armagh Roulement Battalion and 2 UDR. Their difficulties have been sorted out and we are now looking forward to the busy period around Christmas.

At present we are concentrating on our training schedule which is of the utmost importance as we virtually have a new line-up.

We say a warm welcome to the following: **LCpls John Chivers, Mark Mayled, Sig Kev 'Happy Head' Rowe, Ian Mutch, Dave Gemmell** and wife **Diane**.

We also bid farewell to **Sgt Dave Bunt** on his posting to 21 Sig Regt, **Cpl Dave Whitaker** to 249 Sig Sqn, and temporarily to **Cpl Steve Ferris** whilst he does a six months attachment on EOD duty elsewhere in the Province.

COMMCEN/SYSCON

The backbone of the Squadron is working well and all are becoming 'old hands' in maintaining and working with the communications systems in the Province. Even so, during the next few months a large turnover of personnel is going to occur, with many RTgs being replaced by DTgs. Hence the learning process is about to start again with **YofS Dai Jones** and his trusted sidekick **Cpl Bob Booth** trying to get the new people into shape.

A number of RTgs have attended the EOD courses recently and achieved a 100% pass rate. Present postings with 321 EOD Coy are **Sig George (No Neck, Swamp Rat) Green, LCpl 'Dickie' Bird** and **Sig 'Taff' Pattison**. In the new year **Sig 'Jezz' Brown** and **Sig 'Spotty' Mead** will join in.

Congratulations on promotion to: **Cpl 'Stiff' Corpse, LCpls 'Mac' Maclean** and **'Dickie' Bird**.

These notes would not be complete without welcoming our new arrivals: **Sgt Derek Styles, Cpl 'Dickie' Burdge** and his wife **Alda, LCpls 'ET' Tait** and **Chris Adams**, and **Sig 'AB' Allan-Burns, 'Paddy' Lavery** and **'Nob' Green**. We hope they all have an enjoyable and safe tour with the Squadron.

RQMS DEPARTMENT

The department has been fairly busy in preparing for the Ordnance ancillary inspection but we were rewarded as all went well. Now work has started for MOD audit in the New Year which will at least keep a sobering thought in our minds with the onset of the Christmas celebrations.

We welcome one new arrival in the shape of newly promoted **LCpl Trev Ellis** from 210 Sig Sqn who is due to takeover the Cougar/Accommodation side very soon!

ENTERTAINMENT

THE SQUADRON INTER-TROOP QUIZ

In front of a capacity crowd at the Horseshoe Club, several four-man teams faced each other in a test of knowledge. Teams appeared from: Comms Tp (Syscon/Commcen), Comms Tp (Radio Sect/Rover Gp), SHQ/QM Dept, TM Tp and A and B teams, Telemechs MT Tp and Brigade HQ.

The line-up for the semi finals was Comms Tp (Commcen) V TM Tp A and Comms Tp (Radio/Rover) V Brigade HQ. The first semi-final produced a nail-biting finish with Commcen squeezing through on the last question. The second semi-final saw Radio Sect/Rover Gp produce a sudden bout of inspiration, winning easily.

The final encounter produced an amazing display by both of the teams but eventually Radio Sect/Rover Gp won on the final question. The team consisted of: **Capt Simon Renfrey, Cpls Carl Hewitt, Steve Ferris** and **Sig Clive Hallett**.

EXERCISE AUTUMN AMBLE

This year the Squadron's adventurous training took place in the beautiful, but wet, setting of the Lake District. The exercise was organised into two weeks of 'study' during which members of the party had the pleasure of encountering activities such as hill-walking, rock climbing (and abseiling) and canoeing. Many thanks must go to the instructors **Capt Colin Langford, Sgts John Howell-Walmsley** and **Simon Tatman**.

The week is put into perspective by one of the 'students' of the course:

After a fight for places for a week's free board in Ambleside, lucky winners were selected, three being **Cpl 'Scouse' Wharton, Sig Clive 'ten bellies' Hallet** and **Al Payne**. The week started with a nine hour journey on Saturday morning to 'The Hut' closely followed by a six hour recce of the local inns. Sunday 0700 hrs saw the start of the activities with the two days rock climbing. All was going well until the rain began. Halfway up the first mountain **Sig Al Payne** lost his footing and bottle and he spent the rest of the time playing sherpa to the rest of the party. Tuesday and Wednesday were spent fell walking. Once again the wind and rain were out in force, making the 18 miles a day seem more like 28, but only **Sig Clive Hallett** was out of breath at the end of the walks.

Thursday was canoeing day; fortunately the bad weather meant that we had the whole of Lake Windermere to ourselves. The sub zero temperature of the water added to the fun of the capsize drills. **Cpl 'Scouse' Wharton** who was adamant he would not tip his canoe upside down finally plucked up courage, rolled over and gave a superb demonstration on how to get out of an upturned canoe in blind panic. Then the OC gave the same demonstration by accident! Friday was spent telling each other how much we enjoyed every minute of it . . .

SHQ

Well once again, SHQ which is the heart of the Squadron, has been extremely busy over the last month dealing with all the problems that get landed on our desks, especially on a Friday afternoon around about 1600 hrs, forcing us as it does every week to miss the Squadron Happy Hour, (Troop Officers Commanding/Staff Sergeants please note, not all clerks are tee-total!). In fact none of us are, pressure of work you know.

The 2IC **Capt Nigel Wood** has once again been very busy giving briefs to Units in BAOR but he is now having problems getting into his bunk due to the stockpile of duty frees he has accumulated over the last month.

The Chief Clerk has been learning how to fill in a flight application. He now knows that you must be at the airport before the plane takes off and that ETA means estimated time of arrival and not Eve to Airport. It is too long a story to go into but, to cut it short, he missed his flight home for a long weekend due to a clerical error—his (unlucky!) and was **Mrs Eve Fiddes** happy? No!

We extend a warm welcome to **Mrs Carol Stevenson** who has joined the team as a typist (and Asst Timekeeper for the Chief Clerk).

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

A belated entry due to someone **(Sgt 'Jimmy' Johnston)** mislaying the film of the cricket team.

For the second year running the Squadron won the NI Minor Units Championship and also finished runner-up in the NI Minor Units League Cup. Even though the weather was deplorable the Squadron donned their waterproofs and got on with the games.

Most of the team will be posted by next season so perhaps other minor units teams will have some chance; though not a lot, we have been restocking.

RUGBY AND FOOTBALL

Other notable records are beginning to take shape in the form of the Rugby and Football squads. The rugby team reached the final of the NI Minor Units Cup in which they provided staunch opposition for the might of the RMP Lisburn, eventually going down 18—3. It was much more even than the score line suggests. The football team has reached the semi-finals of the competition and we hope that it can go at least one stage further than the previously mentioned personalities.

TM TROOP

Once again the most important and exciting time of the month has arrived;. yes—the deadline for *Wire* notes. We would like to welcome **Sgt Mark Philo, Cpl Pat Violet, LCpl Tim Jones** and **Veronica, Sig Mick** and **Rosemary Ryan, Sig Morph Brown, Sig Joe Killen** and hope they all enjoy their tours here.

Farewell to some old hands with many thanks and hope you enjoy your next 'sleepy hollow' postings, to **Cpl Dave Evans** and **LCpl Mark Sala** and **Tracey**. Bin bags will never look the same.

Congratulations to **Karen** and **Cpl Dave Covey** on the birth of a lovely baby daughter, **Leanne**.

On the work side—The rebuild of Bessbrook Mill is going on quietly, hopefully all the frantic planning will result in a professionally finished installation, both in the accommodation and Ops Room area. However, as we all know, the MO is to wait until the paint is almost dry and then move; a constant challenge to a good sense of humour as the Tele Mechs discovered after fitting out the Middletown video system—yes they'd hardly left the site when someone cut into the system and tied the dreaded 'coax corridor knot'. Just to complicate everything the room with the VCR in was then promptly turned over to the RUC; result—another phone call. 'Nothing too urgent, but can you have it all re-done by tomorrow?'

The TE Wksps, **Sgts Bob Buckingham** and **Simon Tatman** are ensuring that all the present Trend, Brinton, Vengeful and Barkway equipments are maintained while we anxiously await the Phase 2 acceptance trials to put data over the Brinton system. Despite the fact that this will bring us extra work as we inherit more equipments and systems, it will mean that we are now responsible for most of the telegraph equipment within the Brigade area which will bring a lot of satisfaction.

Despite this we do have time to play some sport as **Cpl 'Tin legs' Connolly** leads the Squadron rugby team onwards, don't believe them—you aren't too old yet **Vince**.

All the activity in the TE Wksps worried the Foreman recently until he discovered that a buzzer system was being built for the Quiz and the work was disturbing the card school. Hopefully **Cpls Dave Covey, Les Dawson, 'Taff' Morris, John Ramsdale** and **LCpl Mick Simcock** will soon recover from this serious outbreak of effort.

In the Radio Workshop, where **SSgt Mick 'Guru Grandad' Partridge** lives, there is also frantic activity as **LCpls Gordon Mundie** and **'Sprudel' Murphy** show the new lads **Sig Morph Brown** and **Joe Killen** the subtle art of vehicle panel-beating, a necessary skill from time to time. **Sgt John Hagger** keeps an eagle-eye on Cougar maintenance in the Armagh border area, ensuring that their comms are the best we can provide.

Visits by the new CLF and the GOC have made stars out of our riggers as **Cpl Steve Cousion, LCpl Tim Jones** and **Sig Kim 'Para Roll' Gibbins** offered to let them climb the mast. An offer which the CLF accepted on behalf of his ADC. He was very enthusiastic about taking it up and climbed hard—until the General could not see him—from inside a building.

The Telemechs have been keeping up the excellent PR job they do with car radio fits, intercomm and video installations—out at first light (these's no truth in the rumour that it is to avoid cleaning outside areas) and back after last light (just after all the other vehicles have been inspected). The A Team, led by **Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell** consisted of **LCpls 'Willy' Morgan, 'Mac' McGowan, Jim Fearon, Sig 'Touche' Hadfield** and **Mick Ryan**. There is a competition where the 'boob of the week' winner has to wear a silly hat for a week, **Mac** and **Jim** appear to be consistent winners but we're still working on the reason for the drainpipe jeans and 'bovver' boots.

The outgoing Brigade Commander congratulated them on looking 'exactly like the local workmen', unfortunately he forgot to say whether this was an insult or a compliment. Not to worry, they're a happy bunch enjoying their job.

WIVES CLUB VISIT

In October 1987 the Wives Club visited the Squadron with the intention of finding out just what their husbands get up to during the day. They visited Comds Rover Gp—and learned just how hard life can be in the back of a 'pig'; also learning another meaning to 'Top Gun'. Syscon was invaded, much to the surprise of the chap, who at first was reluctant to let them in. Needless to say, with so much happening all at once they all left with a headache!

On the ranges it was noted that they make finer shots than their husbands. Heli tele gave them an opportunity to see how the 'Beeb' gets its smashing aerial shots for TV. All this added to weapon training made them realise why their husband's arrive home saying they are drained after a hard day's work!

The morning was rounded off by an excellent lunch which was much enjoyed by everyone present.

L to R: YofS Dai Jones, Nicky Graham, Anne Waggot and Alda Burdge who looks as if she's just been bitten by the handset

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SHQ PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Peter Parfitt**
2IC	**Capt Ian Westerman**
AO	**Capt Mike Ledwards**
OC WRAC	**Lt Frances Thomas**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Pete Watson**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Ron Coleman**

The CLF **Maj Gen R. J. Hodges OBE** visited the Squadron on 4 November which culminated in a climb to the top of the tower. The Squadron began a driving school. One other notable event was the presentation of a cheque for £300 to Arthritis Care. The money was raised by MT Dept on a sponsored walk along Hadrian's Wall earlier in the year. A final note of congratulations to **Capt Ted Flint** on his marriage to **Gillian** on 21 November 1987.

The CLF, Maj Gen R. J. Hodges is met at the entrance to Whisky Section by Capt Flint and SSgt McMahon

MT present the cheque for £300 to Arthritis Care

DRIVING SCHOOL

'I have a great idea' said the OC to the Admin Officer one day, 'let's start a driving school for the soldiers and dependants'. The AO nodding in loyal agreement was too stunned to reply, when told to get on and arrange it.

Cars, especially new ones are a costly item, but undeterred by such trivialities the AO set about obtaining financial assistance for the venture. The Golden Goose (HQNI) laid her egg after some deliberation and we were on our way.

Surprised by the OC's forthright approach a local garage soon met the requirement and within days a new Ford Fiesta was delivered to Thiepval Barracks to the delight of all. Officially declared 'open' by the OC, **Maj Peter Parfitt**, the car was soon put to good use.

The following day the first student, **Pte Teresa McMahon** took to the road under the expert eye of the instructor **Cpl Harry Roberts** and so a new chapter in the history of 233 Sig Sqn had been opened.

To date 13 students are benefiting from this activity with many more in the pipeline. It is believed that this is the first time such a venture has been tried in the Province and early indications are that it will be a most successful one.

Footnote: Pte McMahon passed her test at the first attempt. Well done!

The OC, Maj Peter Parfitt, cuts the tape to declare the Driving School open

ECHO TROOP
A PROFILE OF ECHO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt (Tfc) D. G. Wills BEM**
OpsWO	**WO1 J. D. Carr BEM**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt D. Smy**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) D. S. Andrews**
Commcen	**Sgt S. T. Bennett**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt R. M. Auton**
	Sgt S. Clarkson
	Sgt C. D. Horner
	Sgt A. P. Sutherland

The Troop continues to grow at a staggering rate, so much so that rumour has it we may be forming our very own Squadron sometime in the near future. We would, like to extend a warm welcome to all those recently posted to the Troop/Squadron and their wives and families. Over the past few months we have also had to say goodbye to a few of the Troop stalwarts, **Sgt 'Taff' Williams** and **Cpl Steve Guildford** to name but two who will be sadly missed, especially for their generous funding of UDR bar profits.

Warmest congratulations are sent to **Sgt** and **Mrs Hardy** on the birth of their daughter **Samantha**, also to **Cpl** and **Mrs Humphriss** on the birth of their son **Craig**; 27 July was also a day of celebration for **WO2 'Taff' Edwards** who was awarded his LS & GC.

There have been a few sporting accolades bestowed on the Troop, the most impressive being victories in the McKelvie Rugby and Volleyball. **WO1 'Jahangir-John' Carr** was also in fine form on 3 October showing the younger members of the Squadron a thing or two by winning the open Squash Plate Competition (Signed photos are available in the Squadron Office).

Monday 10 November saw the Inter-Troop Quiz Night held at the Peake Inn. An enlightening night was had by all, but the burning question still to be answered was how did 'Rag, Tag and Bobtail', under the disguise of **WO1 'Mensa' Carr, SSgt 'What-you-asking-me-for?' Smy** and **SSgt 'Richard Chamberlain' Sipson** manage to walk away with the winners trophy? Answers to **LCpl Angela Moffat**.

INDIA TROOP
WHISKY SECTION
PERSONALITIES

OC Troop	**Capt E. Flint**
WO2	**WO2 (YofS) G. McAvoy**
SSgt	**SSgt (FofS) P. McGiveron**
Section Sgt	**Sgt M. Goor**
Senior Tech	**Sgt P. Skerritt**
Senior Storeman	**Sgt Ian Duckworth**

TECH CONTINGENT

The main event in October/November was the take over of most of our callouts by Tech Tp, this of course was welcomed by all of the section technicians who can now gratefully spend seven days a week working as opposed to 10 or 11. Our deepest sympathy goes to **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** who won't be able to keep the firm producing NRSA Claim forms in business any more as a result of the change.

FofS Phil McGiveron, as ever, keeps a watchful eye over all of us ready to detail anyone whose job quota drops below 10 tasks for an afternoon (keen or what?) although I admit the added pressure of being System Manager for India Tp is enough for anyone—keep an eye out for the grey hairs Fozz.

Despite all the jobs thrown at us we still provide the high standard of service expected, although modesty prevents me from saying much more, this is due to the gallant efforts of: **SSgt (FofS) Phil 'I never get a mention in *The Wire*' McGiveron, Sgt Phil 'Gibraltar gloat' Skerritt, Cpls Paul Wood, Ian 'I'll have a job soon' McKay, Tim Debell** and **Chris Lane**.

A SHIFT

Congratulations go to **Cpl Gary** and **Linda Warn** on the birth of their daughter **Natalie**. While **Gary** was busy supporting his wife the shift carried on with **Sig Simon Riddell** and **Pte Wendy Hart** ably led by **Cpl Phil Raven**. It should be mentioned at this point that **Phil** had to force himself back from Cyprus where he had spent the last two weeks parachuting with the Corps Display Team, Life is Hell!

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

We bid a sad farewell to **Cpls Ian McKay** and **Chris Lane** on their departure to civvy street and welcome **Cpl Tim Debell** on his re-entry into the Army running scared after his brief encounter with civilian life. Also **Pte Wendy Hart** and **Sue Stanford** have joined us recently.

McKELVIE TROPHY—SUMMER SPORTS

Past members of the Unit will remember the keen rivalry generated by the bi-annual, inter-troop sports competition for the McKelvie Trophy. The Summer 1987 compeition was no exception.

The trophy, a silver cup, was presented to the unit in memory of **Sgt David McKelvie**, who died whilst serving with 233 Sig Sqn in the early 1970s.

In the Summer competition, the trophy is awarded to the Troop which accumulates the most points from six competitions, namely, Volleyball, Swimming, Cricket, Orienteering, Badminton and Basketball.

VOLLEYBALL

Echo Tp which this year fielded only one current Army player in **Sgt John Wheater,** (last year they had four!), ensured that its name continued to be the only one on the trophy by winning all its matches. The final against Commcen Tp, also unbeaten at that stage, was an excellent game, but Echo proved too strong in the end.

SWIMMING

Organised by **SSgt (YofS) Andy McIver** of India Tp, this event took place in the Lisburn Municipal pool. The competition proved to be an occasion for **YofS McIver** to demonstrate how well he had trained his team. Despite a valiant effort by **LCpl Jamie Gardner** of Commcen Tp to drown himself, India won all the events and disappeared to their detached house to celebrate!

CRICKET

This competition took place in July, on Northern Ireland's only Summer's day. Lisburn Garrison's all weather wicket (invaluable in Northern Ireland!) was host to a multitude of whites, nearly whites and 'this is as close as I could get Sir', outfits! all determined to knock the opposition for six. In the true spirit of the game, every member of the fielding side, bar the wicket keeper was required to bowl. The result was almost as many No Balls and Wides, as runs from the bat. Nonetheless, games were won and lost until we arrived at the final between India Tp and the combined Admin/Romeo. Victory for either side, both unbeaten at that stage would capture maximum points. India Tp's stalwart, **Sig (now LCpl) 'Daz' Byrnes** had won the support of the watching crowds by knocking sixes all afternoon! Excitement was at fever pitch, as the OC, **Maj Peter Parfitt** and the AO, **Capt 'Mick' Ledwards** were to bowl. However, **Daz** tried once too often to knock the ball into the guard dog compound and was caught by **Capt Ledwards** who had disguised himself as a tree on the long off boundary. With their main striker gone, India Tp could not build a large enough total to prevent **Maj Parfitt** and **Sgt Jeff Morris** from stroking Admin/Romeo to victory.

ORIENTEERING

This competition, organised by **SSgt Dave Vince** of Commcen Tp, was to dispel once and for all the rumour that technicians cannot read maps. Ably assisted by Echo Tp which was disqualified for having one runner short and by two members of Commcen Tp who managed to get lost, Tech Tp won the day, beating **SSM Pete Doherty** and the rest of Admin/Romeo into second place.

BADMINTON

This event took place in September and was organised by the other DTg SSgt—**SSgt 'Bob' McMahon** of India Tp. There is no truth in the rumour that this time was chosen because OC Commcen Tp, **Capt (Tfc) Allan Dunbar** was on leave. **Capt 'Mick' Ledwards**, OC Admin, ensured that none of his players (including the 21C, **Capt Ian Westerman**) were on leave and, led by example to take the Admin/Romeo team through to the final against India Tp. The competition was fierce and the result hinged on the last match between the aforesaid **Capt Ledwards** and **Sgt 'Mick' Goor. Capt Ledwards** was to claim later that his superior technique and superb fitness won the day for Admin/Romeo.

BASKETBALL

The Basketball Officer, **Capt Allan Dunbar** finally managed to get some time away from his office, and the last of the Summer trophy events took place in November. The result of the overall competition rested on the basketball tournament and the day produced some excellent matches. New talent in the shape of **Sgt Oscar Clarkeson** and **LCpl Pat Coxen** of Echo Tp and **Cpl Pete Clogg** of Admin/Romeo were discovered.

Despite the Traffic Officer's efforts, Commcen Tp failed to win a match and came fifth! Admin/Romeo, led by **Sgt Jeff Morris** remained undefeated throughout the day, despite vociferous support to India Tp by **SSgt Bob McMahon** and his 'chapattis' and some excellent play from Tech Tp, the runners up, led by **Cpl 'Sandy' Sanderson** and **Sgt Keith Perkins**.

The presentation of the McKelvie Trophy, for the Summer competition took place in the Peake Inn on Friday 13 November. **Maj Parfitt** made the presentation to the new OC Admin Tp, **Lt Frances Thomas WRAC** on behalf of the victorious combined Admin/Romeo Tp teams. The photograph shows **Lt Thomas** and **SSgt Tom Swanney**, Admin Tp Staff Sergeant, proudly displaying the trophy.

Admin Tp McKelvie Trophy Winners Summer 1988—SSgt Tom Swanney and OC Admin Tp, Lt Frances Thomas receive the trophy

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

In this issue the College hopes to add to its normal reporting of 'the everyday life of country folk' with a look at Remembrance, history, and some of our outstanding achievements. This is all in the hope that not only will it be of general interest, but may also be food for thought among the sports officers/team managers of those Regiments receiving ex apprentices and junior leaders.

REMEMBRANCE

The College has held a number of events connected with Remembrance over the last few months.

On Sunday 17 May 1987, the Leeds and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association held a service in our Church at Uniacke Barracks. With nearly 800 Apprentice Tradesmen and Junior Leaders in the Church, the 'old boys' looked delighted to see that so many had turned out on a wet and windy morning, (volunteers all of course!). This year, it was the turn of **Maj (Retd) Jim Malcolm**, ably escorted by two apprentice tradesmen, to carry the Book of Remembrance to the High Altar, and turn the page in honour of our dead.

After the service, there was due to be a march past on the square, with the Commandant of the College, **Col C. T. Garton**, taking the salute. Much to the disappointment of the old boys and their wives, the inclement weather meant this had to be cancelled: so the permanent staff and members of the Association then retired to their Messes for lunch.

Thurday 4 June 1987 was the fifth anniversary of the surrender of the Argentinan Garrison in Port Stanley. The College's General Training Wing is already housed in a building named after **Maj 'Mike' Forge**, and Baker Block—the permanent staff accommodation block—is named after **SSgt John Baker**; both former members of the College permanent staff who were killed in the Falklands Campaign. However, this anniversary could not be allowed to pass without being marked in some way, and a memorial service was held in honour of all former members of the College who gave their lives in that Campaign. Last Post and Reveille were sounded, the Commandant read a citation and a piper played the Lament. Many young men in the College were only 11 or 12 years old at the time of the Campaign, but they found it a very moving occasion.

Sunday 8 November 1987 was Remembrance Sunday, and members of the College were either participating in the Remembrance Parade in Harrogate, or at a service in Camp. The College was fortunate this year to have the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, with them on Remembrance Sunday. He attended the Remembrance. Parade at the Cenotaph in Harrogate accompanied by **Col Garton**. The Parade was commanded by **Maj Norman Ladds** and included the College Band and some 120 Apprentice Tradesmen and Junior Leaders. The rest at the College attended a service at St Alban's Parish Church at which the SOinC took the salute.

The College Guard of Honour at the War Memorial

Maj Jim Malcolm, escorted by a Guard of Honour, turns the page in the Book of Remembrance

Gen Alexander and Col Garton heading the local dignitaries on their way to the War Memorial

Gen Alexander with members of the District Branch Royal Signals Association *from L to R:* Maj (Retd) Ken Doyle (President), Mr Jack Kendle, Capt (Retd) Richard Canning, Mr Chippy Wood, SOinC, Mr Ken Purnell (Chairman), Mr Adrian Baldacchino and WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden

BYGONES—THE COLLEGE THEN AND NOW

A look back to 1947 as seen through the eyes of members of the permanent staff then and now.

'It does not seem as long ago as the beginning of May 1947 when the first of the School staff began to arrive at Uniacke Barracks. Situated at a height of 600ft the camp had a deserted and neglected look and it was difficult to visualise how the large area of dispersed buildings could be adapted for the requirements of an Army Apprentices School. If one were in a benevolent mood, it would be possible to describe the barracks as being rather exposed. In fact, it is distinctly windswept and there seems to be a permanent state of 'Roaring Forties'. The wind appears to come at times, directly from the North Pole and to be in such a hurry to get to its destination, that it does not even attempt to go round one. Well, we are still at 600ft, and as anyone who has climbed the hill will testify, the weather has not changed. The barracks today are certainly not deserted or neglected, although the demise of the College ground staff and gardeners has certainly given the weeds a new lease of life'.

Getting to the School in 1947 was as much of an adventure then as it is today—having talked a 'grizzled old taxi driver' into taking him up to the School, a new member of the staff wrote: 'We moved smartly out of Harrogate and wound along a pleasant country road. The scenery impressed me and when shortly we approached a palatial building, I viewed it with pleasure and guessed it to be my future home. The taxi, however, jolted on doggedly, never faltering, and my expectations were dashed. I have learned since to recognise Queen Ethelburga's. Finally, the driver seemed to find his bearings and the car slowed down. Turning off the road, we halted in the midst of some matted vegetation. Faintly visible through the clustering thistles, gorse and tall grass were the roofs of some Army huts. I credit myself with showing no emotion as I surveyed my new station. The ancient driver, having been paid, reversed smartly into some gorse bushes, dodged two piles of rubble and drove off. I have never seen him since, probably he lost himself in the long grass.' 'Grizzled' of Harrogate still drives his taxi from outside the station, only today the journey takes a few seconds with the turbo boost turned up. Queen Ethelburga's still sits imposingly on the approach road to the College. Who, one wonders, back in 1947 or earlier had the idea of siting 1,000 young soldiers next door to a girls' boarding school? The thistles, gorse and long grass still battle with the remaining huts in Hildebrand Barracks, one proudly bears the name Tenko but I suspect this has more to do with the TV series than thoughts of Japanese.

Our 1947 scribe continues 'I was met by several bearers who appeared out of the scrub and I collected my baggage. The officers and NCOs who met me had sympathy in their eyes and machetes in their hands. The days which followed were busy ones even though we had little staff, few buildings, less equipment and no boys.'

There is no fear or intimidation in today's College routine, so the machetes have gone with the sympathy, DAMA have ensured that we still do not have enough staff, the state of the art (1966) architecture ensured that our new buildings have the same characteristics as the 1948 huts. We still have very little equipment but I am happy to say there is no shortage of boys.

Sport played a prominent part in those early days, advice given to the cricket team included such gems as '. . . Watch the ball. Divide bowling into two sorts, good balls, to be played defensively, bad balls, to be hit and hit hard (**Sgt Watts** please note). There are three golden rules in bowling . . . length, length, length'. All as true today as it was in 1947 when the School played 47 matches, winning 28, losing 16 and drawing 3.

Mixed hockey was also alive and well in those days, although where the ladies came from is not known. However, an anonymous scribe penned this poem dedicated to the 'Mere Male':-

If the half-back hooks your ankle,
Don't let the memory rankle
She might have done it and been unaware,
If she begs your pardon, let her;
Don't set out to 'get' her,
Accidents will happen to a player,
Be fairly sentimental
Courteous, kind and gentle,
It never truly pays to be imprudent.
But—if she hooks and chuckles
Bash her on the knuckles!
Chivalry be blowed! Who wouldn't?

Lt Dina Gray may well grin as she nurses a bruised hand collected during a recent Minor Unit Cup match (we won 3—1) in which three of our ladies played.

The School was condemned to death in 1947 then reprieved. The Commandant of the day, **Col D. A. Kendrew CBE DSO**, urged his staff to 'settle down quickly and not let countless problems drown us before we can swim, we must—each one of us—contribute our fullest support'.

It could be said that most of us in 1987 have learnt to swim, but are finding the water deep and the current strong.

Col W. H. Langran—Commandant 1947

Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, 3 November 1947, with an aspiring Radio Telegraphist

Col D. A. Kendrew—Commandant 1948

THE RISE AND RISE OF F. D. ROGERS

On 6 September 1950 a lad of tender (15) years arrived at the gates of the Army Apprentices College Harrogate. No one met him—disappointment. Destiny however was about to take a hand. On 11 November 1987 the very same lad of less tender years again arrived at the same gates, this time to be met by **WO1 (RSM) J. F. Faloone** Irish Guards, **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Taylor** and the full (and considerable) staff of the Quartermaster (General) department. From there he was piped to the Commandant's office to be congratulated on his promotion. **Lt Col (QM) F. D. Rogers** had made it. It was to be a long and memorable day!

AT Frank Rogers came unannounced from Penzance that day in 1950 to spend three years in the College, rise to Acting Corporal and Passing Out as an Operator Wireless and Line (OWL). His final report read:-

Rank attained	AT Cpl
Education	2nd Class
Trade	Passed at BIII
Conduct	Very Good
NCO Qualities	He has definite qualities of leadership and will make a good NCO.
Officer Qualities	Latent and may develop
General	He is a good type of young soldier with a fine future ahead. He is a fine Athlete, Boxer and Cross Country Runner. He has plenty of guts and determination and should do very well in the Army. 8 July 1953 **Ralph Thicknesse** Col late RUR.

From then (1953) until arriving back in the College as Quartermaster in 1985 destiny was to take him first to 11 Armd Div in Herford then via such exotic places as Hong Kong, Malaya, Chester, Denbury, Detmold, Aden, Plymouth, Shoeburyness, Verden and to 7 Armd Bde in Soltau as RSM. Then on commissioning to Catterick, Ouston, Hildesheim, Soest, Aldershot, Tidworth and Krefeld.

During his travels he has represented most if not all the Units he has served in at rugby and represented the Corps in 1963. He has also played for Penzance and Newlyn, Newton Abbot, Chester and Bremen 1960. In addition he has competed at cricket, basketball, hockey, swimming, waterpolo, athletics and cross country running. He now concentrates on golf (some would say he needs to) and has played for the Corps on a number of occasions.

A very popular character, his promotion was welcomed by all and he is living proof of what an Apprentice is able to achieve with hard work and dedication. Of the Apprentices he says 'they are very very fortunate to have such opportunity, freedom, pay and conditions'.

All our congratulations go to **Lt Col Rogers** and his wife Sue.

Lt Col (QM) F. D. Rogers

RAWSON SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Norman Ladds**
2IC	**Capt Jim Coffey**
OC Rct Tp	**Lt Guy Bewsher**
SSM	**WO2 SSM Gordon Townsley**
A Tp Sgt	**Sgt Steve Steveson**
B Tp Sgts	**Sgt Tom Dooley**
	Sgt Bob Witherstone
C Tp Sgt	**Sgt Martin Archer**
SQMS	**Cpl Phil Wright**
Typist	**Miss Linda Ward**

The Squadron has undergone inevitable staff changes of late, losing **Lt Neville Thompson** to Bradley Sqn, **Sgt Pete Griffin** on promotion to BAOR and **Cpl Ian Burt** to 11 Sig Regt. We wish them well and welcome **Lt Guy Bewsher, Sgt Bob Witherstone** and **Cpl Phil Wright** to our happy band. Career courses and broken legs have not helped the manning situation and **Sgt Archer**'s children have begun to wonder who that strange man is who occasionally gets home on Sundays from training recruits.

And so the frenzied pace of College life goes on. The OC is still looking for bags of umpertypoo, the 2IC manages to write a few reports between training Army boxing champions and the SSM is still experiencing some difficulty in convincing certain ATs of the therapeutic effects of formings in quick time at sunrise and sunset.

We've had our moments though and have produced some good preformances. College Orienteering Champions again with **AT Nigel Hunt** mastering map and compass to become the Corps Junior Champion. **AT Sgt Paul Browning** playing rugby for the Army Colts. **AT Cpl Paul McClellan** getting on his bike to become Army and Combined Services Junior Best All Rounder and Army Junior Individual Roller Cycle Champion for the second year running. **AT Sgt Gary Middleton** and **Lt Guy Bewsher** representing the District at Full Bore Target Rifle Shooting, to name but a few.

AT Cpl Tommy Millar is fast becoming our roving ambassador as in full Pipe Major's rig he accompanies the Commandant on prestige presentations around the country. **Tommy** is the son of **Sgt Joe Millar** currently serving in SHAPE and started playing the pipes at an early age. Educated at Queen Victoria School Dunblane, he joined the College in September 1986, was best recruit of his intake and is now a Recruit Tp NCO. In between his band engagements he plays regularly in the College rugby team and still finds time to fit in some training as an EW Operator.

Cpl Millar in Piper's 'rig'

87B recruits Passed Off on 23 October 1987 with **Rct 'CJ' Ball** picking up the Allen Trophy for the Best Recruit on this occasion. Originally from Rhodesia he went to school in the UK before joining us as an RTg and is making a name for himself at College rugby.

Of the 87C intake **Rct Stuart Foster** is carrying on the family tradition of service stretching back four generations to his great grandfather's days with the Royal Engineer Signal Service during World War I. He is training to be an RTg.

So as recruits become champions and leave for the Corps, we look forward to our Christmas party and another good crop in 1988. Best wishes to all ex Rawson Squadron.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Sport has always been an important facet of College life. To this end the College offers a wide and varied selection of sports with teams competing at the highest levels. The success of these teams is attributed to the dedication of the Permanent Staff and to the enthusiasm of the Apprentices and Junior Leaders. As the College teams grow in strength, more and more Apprentices and Junior Leaders are being selected to represent the Corps, Army and Combined Services. This article is to acknowledge their success.

RUGBY

AT Sgt Browning and **AT LCpl Haley** are presently members of the Army U19 Colts side. Their first game was last season where, along with **AT LCpl Tubbs**, they played at the Apprentices College against Durham Country Colts. This season **Browning** and **Haley** have played two matches against Kent and Eastern Counties.

FOOTBALL

During the 1986/87 season **AT Sgt Leyland** and **AT LCpl Barnett** were members of the Army Youth team playing in 12 matches. They both went on to play for the Combined Services Youth Team. This season **AT Cpl Powell, AT LCpl Lloyd, JL Cpl Ferrie, AT LCpl Faramus, AT Cpl Johns** and **AT McCarthy** have been selected for the Army Youth team. They have already played several games against country teams with **AT Cpl Powell** captaining the side.

HOCKEY

AT LCpl Adamson, AT Ashworth and **JL Pollitt** have all played at Senior Corps level. They have played a number of friendlies against other Corps teams and were members of the Squad that entered the Harrogate Hockey festival and Salisbury Hockey festival. Adamson and Politt have been selected for the Army U21 side in the forthcoming inter-service games.

ORIENTEERING

AT Hunt and **AT Cpl Anderson** are both members of Royal Signals Junior Orienteering team. **Hunt** went on to become the Corps Junior Champion and **Anderson** captained the team in the 1987 Junior Army Championships.

WATER POLO

AT Sgt Ledger and **AT Sgt Hobson** are both members of the Army Junior Water Polo team. **Ledger** was also selected for the Combined Services Junior team.

CANOEING

JL Cpl Downey, AT LCpl Lewis-Walker and **AT LCpl Broders** have dominated Junior Army canoeing for the past 10 months. Their rapid and prolific success has made them an influencing force to be reckoned with at Senior level. They have all represented the Senior UKLF Slalom team and gained selection for Senior Army Slalom Squad. **Downey** was also selected for the Senior Army Marathon team and canoed for the Senior Combined Services.

CYCLING

AT Cpl McClellan is presently the Junior Army Roller Cycling Champion. He also produced a good performance when cycling for the Army in the inter-services in September.

POT HOLING

AT LCpl McKinley is a regular member of the Junior Army Pot Holing team. Competitions are held all around the country with Gaping Gill in the Yorkshire Dales being the most popular. It was at this venue **McKinley** competed in the inter-services in December 1986.

CROSS COUNTRY

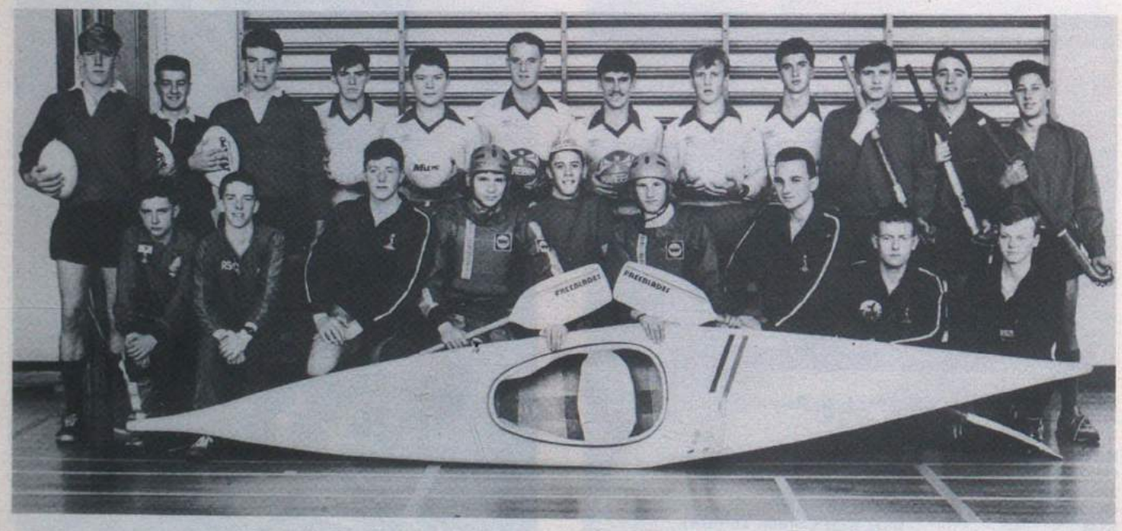
AT Cpl Campbell is the North East District U21 Cross Country Champion.

CRICKET

AT Cpl Johns has consistently performed well at all levels during last season. He was the regular opening batsman for the Army U25 team and on two occasions played for the Senior Army side.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS 1987

The 1987 season has been a reasonably successful one. It has been marked by a continuous improvement in performance by most of the College athletes. The major successes for the AT/JL team came in the Army Junior Inter Unit finals (U18) at Aldershot. The Army Junior Individual Championships (U20) and the Morrison Cup (UK).



Back Row: AT LCpls Rob Tubbs, Bill Haley, AT Sgt Paul Browning, JL LCpl Bill Ferrie, AT Sgt Lee Leyland, AT LCpl Rob Lloyd, AT LCpl Andy Barnett, AT Frazer McCarthy, AT CLpl Richard Faramus, AT Christopher Ashworth, AT LCpl David Adamson and JL Neil Politt
Front Row: AT Nigel Hunt, AT Cpl Walter Anderson, AT Sgt Paul Ledger, AT LCpl Graham Lewis-Walker, AT Cpl Paul McClellan, JL Cpl Dan Downey, AT Sgt Stephen Hobson, AT LCpl Stuart McKinley and AT Cpl Robert Campbell
Missing from photograph: AT Cpls 'Taff' Powell, Nick Johns and AT LCpl Broders

COLLEGE TEAM

In the Army finals the College came third behind the Princess Marina College (PMC) and JL RAC teams. They were a mere four and a half points behind the second placed team and only 14 points behind PMC.

The Army Individuals produced nine medals, some silver, some bronze. Particular merit and their Army Junior Colours were gained by **JL LCpl Haines** in the shot and **AT Dunbar** in the discus, as they were both selected to represent a combined Army/Navy team against Wales (U20s). 510 **AT Cpl Campbell** deserves a mention as well in that he obtained the bronze medal position in 5,000m by running a personal best 50 secs faster than his previous performance.

On 25 July 1987 the Morrison Cup (UK) was held at Middlesborough. The competition drew the four other Major Unit teams from the Corps. The College team although far younger took them on and were only narrowly beaten into fifth place. On the day there were over a dozen personal bests achieved not counting the new marks set whilst throwing heavier field event implements.

The team captain this year was **AT Cpl Adamson** (Rawson) who as well as being a good captain performed well too. He set the season's best 200m time, and triple jump distance in addition to being a member of a successful 4 × 100m team. (Silver medalists at Army individuals). Newcomers who have done well include **JL LCpl Kaczur** in the javelin and **AT Brooksbank** in 1,500m and 800m.

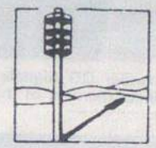
Two new College records were set this season. They are:-

3,000m:	**AT Cpl R. Campbell** (510) (Rawson)	9 min 21 secs
4 × 400m:	College team	3 min 24 secs

The College team was **AT LCpl Robinson, AT Cpl Aitken, AT Tubbs** and **AT Sgt Middleton**.

PERMANENT STAFF TEAM

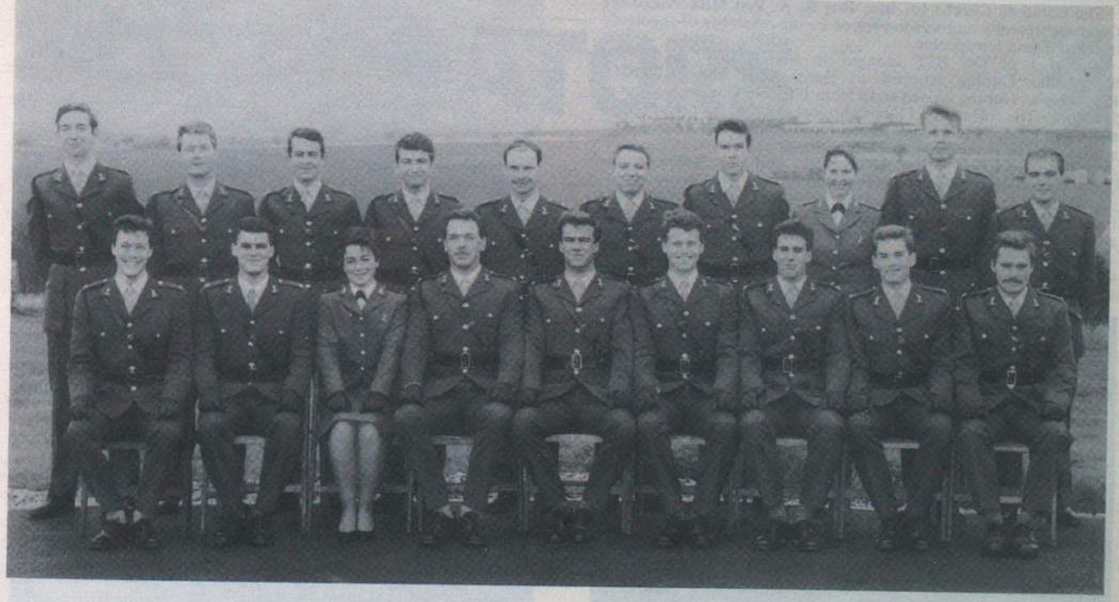
The permanent staff had a mixed season. They achieved placings in the first four of all four of their meetings. The best two results being runners-up in the North East District and Morrison Cup (UK) competitions. In the latter most of the team members were medalists.



School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

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 11.



No 11 Royal Signals Troop Commanders 16 November 1987–15 March 1988
Back Row L to R: 2Lts G. N. Addley (Graham), G. A. P. Ashton (Guy), P. C. Baker (Phil), J. J. Cole (Jon), Lt M. S. Edwards (Matthew), 2Lts J. D. Forrest (Jim), N. D. Fraser (Neil), A. Gordon (Alison), D. J. Kinnaird (David) and R. W. Lapslie (Richard)
Front Row L to R: 2Lts M. S. McGinty (Mike), J. N. Norris (John), P. A. Owens (Philippa), M. C. Roberts (Mark), S. L. Roberts (Simon), N. H. C. Smith (Nick), P. A. Smith (Paul), M. J. Stevens (Mick) and S. P. Wheatley (Stephen)

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

QG SIGNALS IN BRUNEI

Report by Capt I. W. R. Seraph

QG Sigs makes a major contribution to the British Army stationed in Brunei. The Brunei Sig Tp (BST) provides the Commcen in Seria and local telephone support for the Garrison in addition to overseeing the administration and welfare of all QG Sigs soldiers. The training team Brunei which is responsible for instructing all ranks in many aspects of tactics and survival in a jungle environment has a Royal Signals' Adjutant and a small Signal DS Staff commanded by a QG Signals' Warrant Officer. The last element of support is provided by the resident Battalion Rear Link Detachment which also provides technical support for the Garrison tels workshop.

PERSONALITIES

BRUNEI SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**Lt (QGO) Rambahadur Gurung**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Birdhoj Gurung**
CDSO	**Sgt Denis Pescod**
DSO	**Sgt Ivor Rees**

TRAINING TEAM BRUNEI

Adjt	**Capt Ian Seraph R. Signals**
Signals WO	**WO2 Chandraparsad Gurung**

BATTALION REAR LINK DETACHEMENT

RLD Sgt	**Sgt Hembahadur Gurung**

Over recent months there have been many notable events which have taken place. **Sgt Denis Pescod** was presented with the LS&GC medal by the High Commissioner, **HE Roger Westbrook**. During the recent annual visit of the CO, **Lt Col J. E. Neeve** the Troop was presented with a Silver Commstar Award.

The Comd 48 Gurkha Inf Bde, **Brig R. A. Pett MBE** visited the Commcen recently and was impressed by the reliability of the newly installed Trend teleprinters.

The post of OC BST changed in March 1987. **Lt (QGO) Narbahadur Gurung** returned to Hong Kong and **Lt (QGO) Rambahadur Gurung** arrived fresh from J Tp 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn in Sek Kong. The Adjutant TTB has also just changed over, **Capt Mike** and **Coral Complin** left sunny Brunei for Hohne. Newly arrived after a brief spell in Hong Kong are **Ian** and **Joanne Seraph.**

To cap a busy first half of 1987 the 2IC, **Maj I. A. Noble** and the GM, **Maj (QGO) Shyambahadur Pun** visited shortly after the new BST/RLD training room was officially opened. The visit was a trip down memory lane for both officers who enjoyed the barbecue at the troop community centre which is all that remains of the original Commcen and Brunei Sig Tp complex. Also present at the function was **Hon Maj (GCO) Balbir Thapa**, Ex GM QG Signals who has recently moved to Brunei and is employed in the Gurkha reserve unit.

Sgt Denis Pescod being presented with the LS&GC Medal by His Excellency, The High Commissioner Roger Westbrook

Commander QG Signals presents the Silver Commstar to the junior member of the Troop, Sig Prembahadur Tamang

Comd 48 Gurkha Inf Bde Brig R. A. Pett visits the Commcen in Seria during his farewell visit to Brunei

Capt and Mrs Complin open their farewell present in the Troop Community Centre

NT TROOP
246 GURKHA SIG SQN
(48 GURKHA INF BDE)

PERSONALITIES

OC WO1	**WO1 (FofS) C. Ramsay**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt M. Chapman**
SWS	**SSgt (FofS) D. Pickard**
IC Wksps	**WO2 Mekhman Gurung**

SPLASH NIGHT

Friday 10 July saw NT Tp and their families get together at Sek Kong Pool for a splash night. This turned out to be a memorable occasion as it was the first time that all the British, Gurkha and Chinese wives had managed to get together. The function went on until the late hours with the children having to be dragged away, under duress, as they wanted to stay even longer.

BUCHANAN TROPHY

The morning of 11 July came round too soon after NT Tp splash night. The location being the same, but this time the event was the Inter Troop swimming. This year despite the odd foggy heads and sunken eyes we managed to recapture the swimming trophy which we have now held for 8 out of the last 10 years. The day went well with the Troop winning all the events except two in which we finished second.

TROOP SAILING EXERCISES

WO1 (FofS) Dave Edwards ably assisted by **SSgt Martin Chapman** took six keen but apprehensive Troop members out for a day's sailing. For this an early start saw us leaving Causeway Bay Yacht Club and disappearing over the horizon towards Lamma Island.

REGIMENTAL GOLFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 13 August all the budding Tony Jacklins and Nick Faldos of the Regiment converged on Fanling Golf Course, to battle for the honour of being Deemed Bandit of the year. The day comprised a Stableford competition in the morning, and a Bogey competition in the afternoon. **WO1 (GSM) Dave Lumb** won the Stableford with **WO2 (RQMS) Steve McKechnie** a close runner up. The afternoon started well with every one enjoying themselves and **Cpl Pete Smale** playing the most golf. As the afternoon wore on, tiredness started to take effect; the fun was now beginning. **WO1 (YofS) Pete Tapsell** was seen pulling his trolley by his four wood, which by this stage, had been neatly wrapped around his trolley handle. **Cpl Vinnicombe** was now in front on the most golf. **SSgt Martin Chapman** hit the longest drive which was noted by some to be his straightest.

The afternoon's results collected, **SSgt Martin Chapman** emerged winner of the Bogey with a plus 3 from **SSgt (YofS) Ken Jones** in second place with plus 2. **WO1 (FofS) Dave Edwards** had spent a lot of time organising this competition. He had negotiated sponsorship from San Miguel and Carlsberg Beer and this resulted in everybody being awarded a prize of some sort or other, albeit for the most golf. **WO1 (GSM) Dave Lumb** emerged with the title of Regimental Bandit for 1987.

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SHAPE
BFPO 26

LS&GC PRESENTATIONS

Sgt Joe Millar and **Cpl Ned Kelly** were the receipients of their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals at a presentation ceremony held at SHAPE at the beginning of October. The medals were presented by the new DSACEUR **Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE**. In the photograph **Cpl Kelly** is second from left standing and **Sgt Millar** is fourth from left standing (on an orange box). The RSM **WO1 Don Holmes** guards the NATO flags during the medal presentation.

LS&GC Medal presentation

WO1 (RSM) Don Holmes guarding the Alliance Flag

LIVE OAK WHEELER

Cpl Wilf Greener was part of a three man Inter Service team of cyclists who recently completed a sponsored bike ride in aid of new playground equipment for the British school at SHAPE. The ride took them from Mons to Zeebrugge then from Felixstowe to Waverhill. The team hope to raise in excess of one thousand pounds. Well done **Wilf**.

EXERCISE LONG STRETCH

Once again the annual military training exercise for all British Army personnel at SHAPE loomed before us. The exercise took place at Marche-en-Famenne (sounds exotic but it isn't). An early start was made at 0545 would you believe? On arrival at the training area at 0730 hrs, we de-bussed, had a cup (it was tea wasn't it?) then straight into four sections and the exercise proper commenced.

There were various stands to be negotiated throughout the day with all the 'old favourites' APWT, NBC, First Aid. There was also a lecture on 'BIF' no not that kind of BIF. It means Burial in the Field.

After everyone had completed the various tests, the dreaded CFT reared its ugly head with the RSM **WO1 Don Holmes** leading the way along with **Sgts 'Ginge' Walker** and **Keith Anderson**.

Off we trudged to the familiar 'left right left' (are you sure you did Pirbright Sir?). We were then treated to the recent hit single 'I wanna be a drill instructor' good start Sir, good start.

Royal Signals leading the way home

SSgt Jim Shiels posing on the range

RSA v RN CRICKET MATCH

The Navy won the toss (the only thing they were to win that day) and elected to bat first. The Navy's 'big guns' were silenced by a superb diving catch from **Brig Noel Moss** 'lurking' in the slips. After that it was only a matter of time until the Navy were all out.

The openers for the Signals Association, **Brig Moss** and **WO1 (RSM) Don Holmes** (rank had nothing to do with the batting order) then proceeded to beat the Navy score between them. The RSM then had what can only be described as a 'brainstorm' when he lashed out at a poor delivery and was duly caught just inside the boundary.

After that the pace of the match slowed down until we decided to unleash our 'Secret Weapon' **Lt Col 'Chuckles' Hunt**. Fresh from his 1986 success in one of SHAPE's many softball teams. His performance was just the tonic the crowd needed. He was quickly followed by **Cpl Ned Kelly** who proceeded to knock the Navy's bowling for six. The other members who made up the team were **Cpl 'Ginge' Howard, Cpl (now Sgt) Pete Allen, WO1 (YofS) Dave Gruncell, SSgt Jim 'Hopalong' Shiels, Sgt Pennell, Cpl (now Sgt) 'Enoch' Powell** and **LCpl Peter Prater**. The unbiased umpires were **WO2 (YofS) John Tyreman** and **Bob Nelson** of CPD Blandford. In the after match refreshments the Navy took the honours. A big thank you to all who took part both playing and organising a fun filled afternoon.

BRITISH SUMMER LEAGUE 10 PIN BOWLING

SSgt Archie Arbuckle and **Sgt Danny Cullen** were both members of this year's winning team in the SHAPE British Summer League. Both **Archie** and **Danny** have been bowling for only one season. At the end of season presentations it caused quite a shock when **Danny** refused the customary celebration drink. After much head scratching and pulse checking it was discovered that **Danny** is in strict training for his RSSSC, hope all goes well **Danny**. Catterick Beware!

The Sultan's Armed Forces Signals
PO Box No 1720

Report by WO2 (YofS) Jason Wood

Assalaam alaykum, Kayf haalkum? tayibeen! mabsooteen?

Dear Wire readers, greetings from Oman. Aha! what's this I hear you say; a foreign tongue from fields afar. And where might Oman be? Oman is at the South Eastern end of the Arabian peninsula, bordered by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saudi Arabia and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) while the coastline faces the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The country, which is about the size of UK, is ruled by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and has a population of approximately one and a half million people.

The opening transliteration is typical of the ritual greeting one would bestow when meeting each other in daily life in the Arab world. So now you ask, what does daily life consist of out there in the Middle East and who is living it? Well at the moment, the largest contingent of expatriates in the SAF Signals, are mostly ex serving members of the Royal Signals, some of whom get a mention a little later on. However the loan service roll of honour, including yours truly, is as follows:

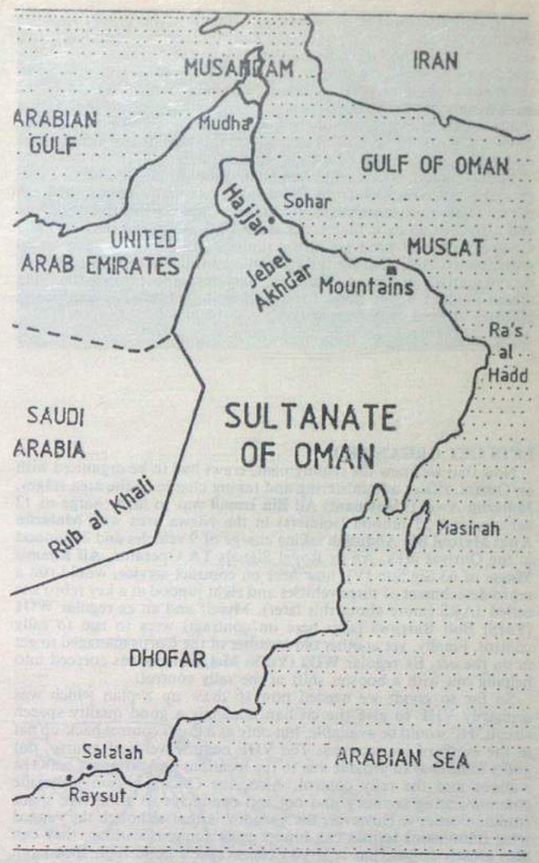
Comd SAF Signals	**Col Gordon Barnett MBE (al qaa' id)**
SO1 Tels SAF Signals	**Lt Col Ian Penny (Naa'ib qaa'id)**
TM Tp 1 Sig Regt	**WO1 (FofS) Chris Fielding**
Northern Oman Bde Sig Sqn	**WO2 (YofS) Jason Wood**
Southern Oman Bde Sig Sqn	**WO2 (YofS) Sid Coleman**

Four of the Five
YofS Jason Wood, Col Gordon Barnett, Lt Col Ian Penny and FofS Chris Fielding

The length of tour for the FofS and YofS is normally 20 months, preceded by a 10 week Colloquial Arabic course at Beaconsfield, which can either be fun, or a real nightmare depending on your aptitude for languages. Although most Omani Soldiers and in particular the Officers, speak very good English, the colloquial Arabic course prior to arrival is a must. This is mainly because in addition to 10 weeks of verb conjugation and horrendous tongue twisting words, you learn a little of the Arab way of life, their customs and culture, which all helps you to settle in more quickly and more easily upon arrival leaving you the time to concentrate on the job in hand.

So now a quick insight into what the job is all about. Some of you may already have deduced that the main aim is to teach and advise the Omani officers and soldiers the latest communication principles and techniques. This is achieved in classroom training, study days and plug-ups on the square etc. Out in the field, or in this case desert, there are the usual CPX's, FTX's and in some cases operations. Northern Oman Bde Sig Sqn (NOBSS) and Southern, Oman Bde Sig Sqn (SOBSS) are organised and run very much like a UK or BAOR unit with Line, Technical and QM departments being a separate entity but still giving full support to the Brigades.

The main combat net radios in use are the VHF Jaguar VRQ 316 frequency hopper and the HF Syncal TRA 931. There is a recently purchased radio relay package using the Triffid Radio and working into an 'all singing, all dancing' Plessey System Switch, which provides trunk communications and interfaces into the MATEL field telephone system.



The Omani's themselves are a charming and hospitable people, both in the Army and civilian life. Certainly in the Army they are hard working and quick to learn and this is shown by the high standard of operator produced through the SAF School of Signals.

For those who served here when the Army consisted of the Oman Gendarmerie and two signallers, SAF Signals alone now has a headquarters, two regiments, and three minor units. The minor units are the Tels workshops, Force Comms Equipment Depot and the School of Signals. A total of 1,500 men.

OMAN INTERNATIONAL RALLY

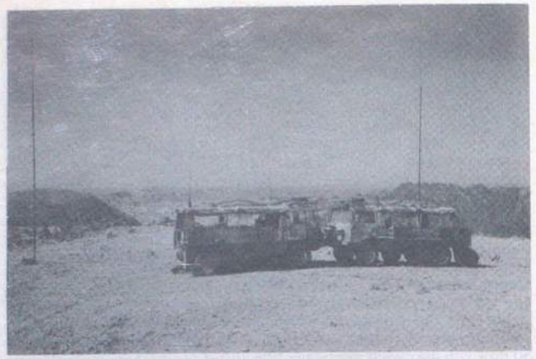
Now for something completely different and the main reason for these long awaited *Wire* notes from Oman; a report on an unusual and interesting task given to NOBSS.

During the last weekend of October 1987, the fifth and penultimate round of the 1987 Federation International due Sport Automobile (FISA) Rally Championship was to be held in Oman. The outcome would decide who would wear the rally championship laurels in the Middle East for 1987.

The Oman Autombile Association (OAA), eager to be the hosts of a well organised event, turned to their sponsors, promoters and supporters for what would be much needed help in order to hold a safe a smoothly run rally. HQ Sultan of Oman's Land Forces (SOLF) was approached with a plea for help in providing communications. This was finally agreed and the job landed in the in-tray of NOBSS, stopping ultimately on my desk with the question 'can we do it?' So in addition to carrying out our normal operations and training but thinking of the saying 'nothing is impossible, miracles just take longer' the squadron set out to see what was needed and how it could be supplied. It was about now that I realised we should all have put in for some untimely leave, but, as we say in NOBSS; when the going gets tough then NOBSS gets going! Exactly where to, I don't know, but we certainly get going.

The rally itself was to be a three leg affair with legs planned for the evening, day and morning of 28, 29 and 30 October respectively. Leg one was held in the Quriyat area, Leg two in the Nizwa area and Leg three again in the Quriyat area, with the rally control HQ situated in the commercial area of Ruwi town. The rally control was in fact a large room in the business centre of the rather plush and rather expensive Ruwi Hotel, one of the main sponsors. The overall distance of the rally was to be 1,147.11km with 331.75km of this being taken up by 22 special stages of varying distances.

The communications requested were quite simple (as the OAA so succintly put it) a link from all special stage starts points to finish points so that the marshals could monitor and control the departure and arrival of all cars; plus a link from all finish points back to Rally Control to report progress giving timings and penalties incurred by participants. Also sharing the control room in the Ruwi Hotel were representatives of Oman Computer Services, who provided a video screen readout in the hotel foyer and up-to the minute results and placings in hard copy format.



The scenic view of a twin Pinzgauer rebro detachment overlooking the town of Ruwi

LETS GET ORGANISED

Now that we knew the requirement, crews had to be organised with an Omani officer administering and taking charge of the area stages. **Mulazim Awal (Lieutenant) Ali Bin Ismail** was to take charge of 12 vehicles and 35 junood (soldiers) in the Nizwa area with **Mulazim Awal Mazool Bin Abdullah** taking charge of 9 vehicles and 28 junood in the Quriyat area. An ex Royal Signals TA Operator, **Ali Khamis Mussa** of 63 Sig Sqn (V), now here on contract service, would run a rebro detachment of three vehicles and eight junood at a key rebro site called JARS (more about this later). Myself and an ex regular **WO1 (YofS) Bob Burrows** (also here on contract) were to run to rally control. Finally, yet another old member of the Corps managed to get in on the act. Ex regular **WO2 (YofS) Mel Watson** was coerced into helping out with a booster shift at the rally control.

So far so good; we needed now to draw up a plan which was primarily VHF to give the civilian marshals a good quality speech circuit. HF would be available, but only as a multi control back-up net in the event of lost comms. The VHF comms were, of course, not going to be easy to provide due to the locations and distances between stations and the rally control. Also, the Omani terrain is hostile communicating territory and not too conducive to good free space communications. However, the paradox is that although the rugged jebel (mountain) terrain can hinder your communications, they can also greatly help! That is if you can access a good high spot from where it sometimes seems as though you could talk to the world. One of these sites is the Jebel Akhdar Relay Site (JARS) which stands 6,975ft above sea level.

An intensive brief by YofS Jason Wood to Mulazim Awal Mazool Bin Abdullah leaves YofS Bob Burrows looking somewhat bemused in the background

LET'S GET COMMUNICATING

From a map appreciation it was anticipated that comms from the special stage finish points in the Nizwa area could shoot through a rebro on JARS direct to the rally control. So off we went to install a base station in the Ruwi Hotel with an 8m mast on the buildings, at the same time deploying our dets to test the comms from the Nizwa area. Sure enough, it didn't work! Not surprisingly since the Ruwi Hotel is located in a deep wadi (valley) surrounded by small hills directly in the path to the intended JARS rebro site. So another high spot was found approximately 15km to the south-east overlooking Wadi Kabir and shooting down into Ruwi. This site is approximately 1,200ft high with reasonable access and after a further comms check from the rally HQ, via two-way and three-way rebros on this new location and JARS, then down to the Nizwa area 'Al Hamdulilah' it all worked. Right we thought, lets see if this new location would bring in the stations from the Quriyat area. So with detachments deployed, a check from the stations in the Quriyat area was carried out and everything came in first time. In the meantime tests between start points and finish points had all been successfully carried out due to a carefully worked out frequency management plan and it now seemed that all the preparation was complete. We then duly returned to barracks to await the coming of the big event.

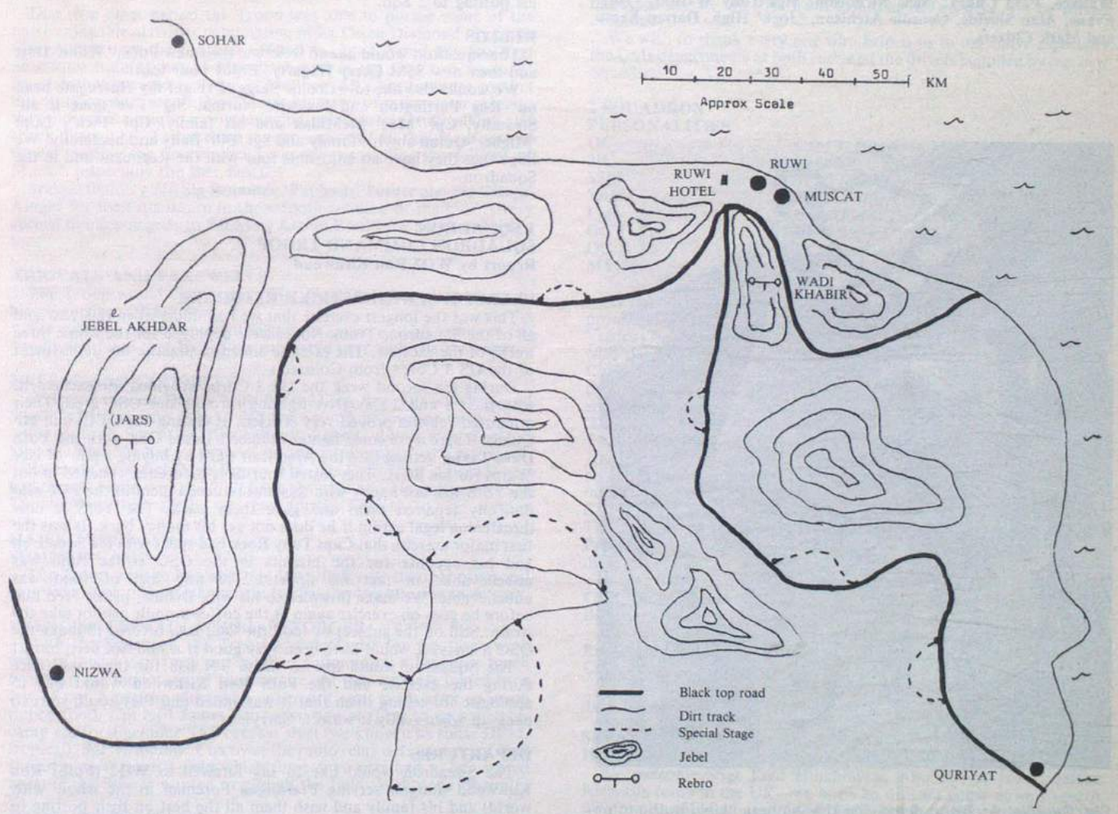
LET'S GET RALLYING

A fortnight later just prior to the start of Leg one, all detachments were pre-positioned, a final communication check carried out and everything still worked. This was to be the continuing trend for the duration of the rally, except for the one inevitable time which always seems to coincide with a visit from the boss. The boss being the NOBSS OC **Raa'id (Major) Humaid Bin Said** who came along to find we had temporarily lost a vital station. However, this problem was soon to be overcome by the dramatic dispatch of **YofS Bob Burrows** in a 'hot standby' mobile. Racing like the wind to the music of 'Valkyries' he had to arrive at the problem location before the mass of screaming rally cars! I still don't know who won but he has been breaking out in a cold sweat ever since. I nearly had cause to break out in a cold sweat myself when I saw the price of a beer in the hotel bar!

Otherwise the remainder of the rally passed without incident except for the friendly bullying of the clerk of the course and chief marshal who both did a great job of being liaison men between the OAA and outselves in addition to carrying out their own tasks.

The OAA was delighted and very impressed with the comms provided as shown at the rally prize-giving when an exceptionally long and loud round of applause rang out for our contribution. In fact as a token of their appreciation the OAA even arranged a special 'hafla' (Arab sit down communal feast) in honour of our junoods efforts, this was much appreciated. For NOBSS, it was very worthwhile and enjoyable with everyone taking part in a rather different and exciting exercise with the royal blue beret of SAF Signals contributing to good relations and maintaining our parent motto 'Certa Cito'.

A scene at one of the many busy start/finish points



News from Regiments

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 32

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON QM TECH DEPT

Looking through the archives on *The Wire* magazine it seems that the last notes from this department were written in AD 1066 by **RQMS Harold** (the one with the arrow in his eye) just prior to the battle of Hastings. As he was on the losing side, we thought it fitting that a more up to date article should be written by the present RQMS singling out the outstanding and bewildering achievements of the past few months.

There have been drastic changes within the department during the past two years. We have managed to work through two QM's, three RQMS's, five JNCO's and at least 14 soldiers. The word 'continuity' is one we are still trying to find the meaning of in the latest Oxford Dictionary.

At present the department looks something like this: **QM (and O i/c golf) Maj Akehurst, RQMS (O i/c running and Becks) Hegarty, Sgt (O i/c survival/rat catcher) Olly Ogden, Sgt Erich Ridley, Cpl (O i/c hair pieces) Shaun Schollick, LCpls Paul Selby, Brad Bradley, 'Wally' Wallace, Paul Culley, Nick Nicholson, Sigs Tony Watson, 'Taff' Evans, Alan Shields, Geordie Atchison, 'Jock' High, Darren Kemp** and **Mark Chivers**.

Sig 'Geordie' Atchison displaying the winners shield in the Inter-Squadron sports day and WO2 Gerry Hegarty during the 5,000m race, if you think he looks old you're right, but not as old as he looks after coming out of the QM's office each morning
Our third member being Maj Jimmy Akehurst—for those of you who can find him!

1 (PTARMIGAN) SQUADRON COMMAND TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Bernard Barton-Ancliff**
2IC	**Capt Tony Rock**
SSM	**WO2 Bob O'Hara**
FofS	**WO2 Ron Kirkwood**
YofS	**WO2 Dave Taylor**
SQMS	**SSgt Don Bruce**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Roy Partington**

FAREWELLS

It is with sadness that we say farewell to the **FofS Ron Kirkwood** and his wife **Carole** who, when this is published, will be sunning themselves in Belize. **SSM Bob O'Hara** and his wife **Maureen** who, so the M & RO tell him, is going to a very prestigious job as the RSM of the Army Equipment Exhibition in Aldershot; **Bob** is not convinced but the advantage is, that his office is in Soho! The Squadron would like to give a big thank you to both **Carole** and **Maureen** for all the hard work they put into the Squadron wives club. They will both be sadly missed.

We also say sad goodbyes to **SSgt 'I am not the TOTs driver' Nick Churcher** and his wife **Di**, all the best in TM Tp. **Sig 'Ganz' Ganley** on his posting to 2 Div Sig Regt and **Sig Julian Francis McTavish** on his posting to 2 Sqn.

HELLOS

The Squadron would like to welcome their new FofS, **'Willie' Dott** and their new SSM **Gerry Hagarty**. Enjoy your tour.

We would also like to welcome **Sarge 'I've got my Harrogate head on' Roy Partington** and his wife **Norma. Sig 'I've done it all' Stroudly, Cpl 'Mac' McMillan** and his family, **Cpl 'Pick', LCpl 'Mighty' Quinn** and his family and **Sgt 'Bill' Baily** and his family. We hope that they have an enjoyable tour with the Regiment and in the Squadron.

1 SQUADRON
SQUADRON COMMAND TROOP
Report by WO2 Ron Kirkwood

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE/REFORGER

This was the longest exercise that we had undertaken this year and all of the Squadrons Trunk Nodes were deployed for the whole three weeks of the excerise. The exercise aimed to practise the deployment of the US 3 Corps from Colorado

During the second week the US 3 Corps provided the excitement with their 1 and 2 Cav Divs fighting through our OSC area. Their armoured vehicles proved very efficient at cutting our DELs and HF Quads. There were some lighter moments in the OSC with the **YofS Dave Taylor** getting into the American spirit by buying a pair of lace in zips for his BCH. They lasted four days before they packed in but the YofS was not happy with this and returned them to the PRI who dutifully repaired them and gave them back. The YofS is now threatening legal action if he does not get his money back. It was the first major exercise that **Capt Tony Rock** had spent with the Squadron and his appetite for the biscuits in the OSC coffee fund was unbelievable, in fact his appetite for any sort of food was unbelievable. We make this plea to his wife **Debbie**, please feed him before he goes on exercise again as the coffee swindle cannot take the strain. Still on the subject of food the OC, BA, offered to make the OSC a curry, it would have been very good if it had not been burnt!

The Squadron would like to thank TN 038 for their assistance during the exercise and the **FofS Ron Kirkwood** would like to apologise for telling them that it was ended and they could start to pack up when really it wasn't. Sorry!

DEPARTURES

The Squadron would like to say farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood** (longest serving Ptarmigan Foreman in the whole wide world) and his family and wish them all the best on their posting to Belize—get your holidays booked now!

A sad farewell is also said to **WO2 (SSM) Bob O'Hara** (longest serving Ptarmigan SSM in the whole wide world) and his family on their posting to the Army Equipment Exhibition in Aldershot. Never mind **Bob** better luck next time!

EAGLE TROOP (TN 041)

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE/REFORGER

Despite the high expectations of a fast moving exercise with plenty of opportunity to see other armies in action, we remained static and watched the war go by. Our radio relay was sited non tactically for optimum comms and the SCRA were located in open fields where they could be seen for miles. All this and the total lack of movement was certainly not like our usual fast moving tactical selves . . . but we survived..

The following awards for distinction in the field were made:

Moan and groan medal to **LCpl McHugh**.
Best imported runner **Sgt 'Mad Mike' Kitson** Royal New Zealand Signals.
Best photographer to **Sig Oliver** (only photographer!).
Most shower runs to **SSgt Cox**.
Least shower runs to **Sig 'Dippy' Dow**.

Mentioned in despatches were awarded to **FofS Ron Kirkwood** for staying asleep in his sleeping bag while it floated out of the location. **Sig Fennel** who fell out of his wagon and broke a finger, **Cpl Brunton** for Anglo/US relations (he helped an American radio relay Sergeant out of a tight spot) and **Cpl Bowes** for endurance.

FALCON TROOP (TN 051)
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Capt Al McPhee Royal Canadian Signals**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Tom Patterson**
Troop SSgt Tech	**SSgt Pete Taylor**
Recce Sgt	**Sgt John Lewis**

Due to a quiet period the Troop was able to pursue some of the more enjoyable activities culminating in Ex Owen Diamond (Summer Camp). We used the facilities offered by the 1 Armd Div Sig Regt adventure training hut at Moosbach and in the first two weeks of October that intrepid explorer **Al McPhee** (All Canadians are good at the outdoor stuff aren't they?) took his band of merry men out into the wilds of Bavaria to enjoy canoeing, windsurfing, hillwalking and shock dicing . . . To break up the monotony of all that fresh air and fitness training the first weekend was spent sampling the delights of Munich (especially the Bier Fest).

Special thanks go to **Sig Brummie 'Panbash' Turner** and **Sig 'Ninja' Ainger** for their assistance in the smooth running of the hut. A very special thank you goes to **Sgt Mike Kitson RNZS** for his contribution too.

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

The Troop would like to wish **SSgt Dave Toleman** all the best on his posting to 227 Sig Sqn.

We welcome his replacement **SSgt Pete Taylor** and his family to the Troop and hope that he has an enjoyable tour with the Regiment.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Welcome to **SSgt Danny Mills** from 33 Sig Regt (V) who replaced **SSgt 'Taff' Cox** who goes to 255 Sig Sqn on promotion to WO2.

Farewell to **Sgt Mike 'Walkabout' Kitson**, Royal New Zealand Signals, who has had enough of us and is returning to 'Kiwi' land.

Farewells also **Cpl Dave Bowes** (Has the FofS spelt it right?) and **Cpl 'Errol' Flynn** who couldn't hack the pace and have retired to TM Tp. We wish them all the very best for the future.

HAWK TROOP (TN 061)
SUMMER CAMP

The Troop went to Moosbach in Bavaria for its summer camp and enjoyed a week of hillwalking, windsurfing and sightseeing in Austria.

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE/REFORGER

With the Squadron the Troop was deployed for the three week exercise, but a visit from our families followed by a barbecue lunch broke up the monotony of the exercise. At this we were joined by a few of our American allies who enjoyed it very much after so much tinned food. **Cpl Neil James** persuaded one of them to exchange his camp cot for a genuine SAS combat shirt (we know it as shirts DPM, tropical). **Sgt 'Brummie' Cox** owes the radio relay dets a barrel of beer for locating them in a field which three days later had to be vacated because the farmer wanted to plough the field. Well done **'Brum'**.

HAWK TROOP (TN 061)
SPORT

The Troop managed to win the inter-troop volleyball by beating TM Tp in the final. It was a very hard fought match with **SSgt Al Davey** spraining both of his ankles in the match but he managed to hobble up to receive the winner's medal.

The Troop has been short of manpower recently due to the fact that seven men competed in the Squadron boxing team.

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

We say goodbye to **Sig 'Spike' Williamson** who leaves us to go to 21 Sig Regt—look out the RCZ . . .

Welcome to **Sgt Mark May** and his wife. **Mark** had a baptism of fire arriving in the middle of RSIT preparation and not knowing a thing about the workings of Ptarmigan (Who does?). He is still recovering.

A special welcome to the new Troop Commander **2Lt Harriet Makepiece** who joined us from 3 Sqn, no more smelly Panzers for him.

KESTREL TROOP (TN 027 or is it 071?)

A top psychiatrist claimed recently that moving house was the most traumatic experience in an adult's life. He has obviously not tried moving a Trunk Node. Not between locations on exercise but from 7 Sig Regt to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

As the Troop grew from a nucleus of 12 men and one officer, to a massive 27, now including three SNCOs, we set about transforming battered TN 027 into a gleaming new TN 071. The RSM, **WO1 Andy Hickling**, appeared with a smart disbandment parade, the QM with endless CES checks and the Sqn Comd, **Maj Churches**, with us joining in with his SAI just prior to the move.

Despite all this feverish activity we were eventually declared ready to move. The vehicles were all lined up to go when the SQMS descended on us with yet another handful of 1033s. This score having been settled we actually departed for Verden and to Troop OC's surprise we all made it without getting lost or breaking down. There is now only one problem left to be solved, are we 027 or are we 071? If you believe the SCC (does anyone!) then we are 027 but the vehicle markings say we are 071. I am sure that the mystery will be solved eventually.

We wish to thank every one who helped us in our move especially the QMs departments at both ends and the drivers supplied by our new Squadron.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt I. Cameron-Mowatt**
2IC	
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Jeff Ashwell**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Frank McCubbin**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Dean Allen**
OC P Tp	**Capt Steve Herstell**
OC R Tp	**Lt John Stuart**
MT Sgt	**Sgt 'Dodger' Green**

As members of the Squadron returned from weeks 'on the hills', providing (much appreciated) support for Ex Reforger and Keystone, Verden 'Rent-a-Det' INC returned to Barracks for a well earned rest with the livers in being reintroduced to Food and Accommodation Charges, sheet charges, HiFi maintenance. To prevent boredom, those with little or nothing to do (and those are few) are busily employed on a Squadron facelift, under the artistic guidance of **Sgt 'DIY' Rixon**.

On the Social front the Regimental highlight of the year, the Annual 2 Sqn Conker Competition was held earlier this month with various people making a desperate bid for promotion by sacrificing their famous 10ers or 20ers and loosing to the VIP guests, the Garrison Commander **Brig I. Townsend** and the CO **Lt Col R. A. Farrimond**. The eventual winner was yet another Technician **Cpl (soon to be Sig!) Pete Howson**. Speaking of Technicians, aren't they getting young these days?

As for hellos and goodbyes there are as usual many—goodbye to **Capt 'Bois' Mather** who leaves, for the sunshine and hellish heat of Belize.

Cpl 'Kipper' King has picked up his bed from the back of his Radio Relay and walked—well driven to 8 Sig Regt (we hope he passes the Course this time).

LCpl Andy Callaghan and **Sue** who leave for Blandford—there to meet up with **2Lt Mike Stevens**.

Finally **Sig 'Wilf' Milnes** who departs for a career in the Dorset Fire Service (rumours that he only joined for the uniform are untrue). House insurance in the South of England has been raised accordingly.

We welcome **SSgt Fred Hutchinson**, who arrives from various Airborne tours in the UK—we hope he will not come down to earth with too much of a bang. **LCpl 'Taff' Power** on his return from the Falklands and **Sig Culter**.

And finally welcome back (again) to **Capt 'Sailing Steve' Herstell** who now resumes the very responsible job (if anything goes wrong I'm responsible) of OC Papa Tp. He was last seen indenting for Floatation Kits and Sails for the 43's.

L to R: Sgt Wray BEM, Sig Harris, Warman, LCpls Roberts, 'Fred' Perry, Sig 'Geordie' Cullen, Cpls Bob Marshall, 'Shammy Leather' and Sig 'Ned' Kelly

In addition to these the Squadron has seen fit to issue a 'get out of Verden Free Card' to **Sig Dave Langridge** who is off on a month's leave to Australia—taking with him a packed lunch, courtesy of **Mrs Yvonne Wray** ('Isn't it a long way?). Our photo shows his departure.

Now for the ins and outs. Hello to **SSgt (FofS) Dean Alen** and his wife **Sue** from 31 Sig Regt (V)—welcome to the real world and to **Sgt John Barran** and **Pauline**, to **Cpl Alan Westhall** and wife **Liane, Cpl Heyes** and wife **Julie, LCpl Mark Tirey** (and who left us after a few short weeks with the excuse that he was getting married), **LCpl Taylor** and **Sig 'Old' Trafford** and **Robinson** from the hallowed turf of 8 Sig Regt.

The Squadron bids a fond farewell to **Maj Paul Ellis, Juanita** and family who depart for a new career in civilian life and a period of recovery from the endless round of farewell parties. We wish him well as he undertakes a course in Business Administration at Cranfield Institute of Technology—living in yet another army quarter! A further loss to the Squadron is the departure of **SSgt John McAveety** and his wife **Carol**. **Staff Mac** leaves on promotion to assume the job of SSM at 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn. We wish him well and hope he keeps busy.

We also congratulate **Cpl 'Bob' Marshall** and **Grace** on the birth of their daughter **Kimberley-Jane, LCpl 'Bob' Ferguson** and his wife **Chris** on the arrival of their son **Ricky** and congratulate him on a splendid choice of name.

3 SQUADRON

DEPARTURES AND CONGRATULATIONS

WO2 (SSM) Ben Britton left for Catterick, and his new job as RSM depot in late July and was replaced by **WO2 (SSM) Ian Kirkpatrick**—just in time for battlecamp. **SSgt 'Geordie' Dobson** left for 3 ADSR and was replaced as Oscar Tp Staffie by **SSgt Pete Griffin. Sgt Ian Adams** left for the UK and was replaced as MT Sergeant by **Sgt Tom Hardy**. The Squadron also welcomed **2Lt Mark Roberts** from Sandhurst who will spend his attachment here. Farewell also to **Lt Pete King** who has left us for civvy street and to **Cpl 'Mac' McLeish** who has gone to 11 Sig Regt as a Troop Corporal. The Squadron would also like to welcome **Cpl Simons** to Tech Tp, **Sig Brett Cowley** and **Sig Jonny Hart** to Oscar Tp.

Congratulations go to **WO2 (SSM) Britton, SSgt Dobson, Sgt Adams** and **Cpl Perry** who have all left on promotion these last few months.

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

After battlecamp Oscar Tp left on another holiday, this time it was their Summer Camp in Bavaria. As the members of the Troop got to know new **Staffie SSgt Pete 'no knees' Griffin** and **Sgt Ray Bray** let them call him **'Sarge'**. It proved that some soldiers have hidden talents, much to the relief of **Sig John Crier**, who found himself in dire need of careers advice; **Sig 'Red' Constable** turned out to be very experienced in such matters. **Cpl Sam Slade** mastered the art of abseiling without ropes, and on the 30km canoe expedition **Sig 'Scouse' Littler** demonstrated the art of upside down canoeing.

EXERCISE REFORGER

Elements of the Squadron were deployed to provide communications for APC (The Press Centre), a mobile umpire group, as well as staff vehicles (and crews) for one of the ACCs and III (US) Corps HQs. It was left to **LCpl Jim Toms** to provide the drama when he managed to set the SAS/MC on fire. By late September it was time for return to camp and prepare for the Shrivenham Staff Course demonstration.

SOLTAU TRIATHLON COMPETITION

'The Quiet Year' continued in Soltau with the Station Triathlon Competition on 16 October. This titanic event was organised by **Lt Hugh Mullan** and produced many noteworthy performances. **Cpl 'Chippy' Chapman** continued his fitness drive with a stirring 10km run, he is now thinking of taking up cross-country! Our tame AIPT, **Cpl Clarke**, decided to enter all of his boxing team with mixed results. **Cfn Steve Pattenden** found the whole event a little warming to say the least. In the end there was no doubt about the winners. The team of **SSgt Bob Wright, Cpl Mick Fitzpatrick** and **Sgt Dave Forbes** proved easy winners— well done.

We continued on a sporting theme throughout October at the expense of our old rivals 16 Tk Tpt Sqn RCT. On consecutive days we triumphed over them at hockey and football, both in the Army Minor Units Cup. Congratulations lads and keep up the good work.

EXERCISE ROLAND RAT

Unfortunately, October was not all fun and games and exercises had to be fitted in as well. Exercise Roland Rat was a test exercise for the Royal Hussars. The Squadron provided its usual main Headquarters and a collection of Umpire vehicles to assist in exercise control. Chasing challengers across the Soltau Training Area in a 436 is not recommended for the faint hearted, especially when **LCpl Pete Gibbs** is driving. Conditions were worsened by the continual rain which turned the training area into a quagmire. We are still trying to remove the mud from the panzers. The mood of the week was lightened by our Chief Clerk, **Sgt 'Scouse' Mahoney**, who was the enemy platoon Sergeant—he's scared of the dark!

GUY FAWKES NIGHT

SSgt Kev Lodge displayed his skill as an artist by organising the Station Firework display. However one of the linemen did have to tell him the date of the event! The evening was well attended.

DRIVER TRAINING

Cpl Dave Keevash continues to make his students nervous of his driving skills. **Sig 'Des' Coleman** has discovered the way to avoid criticism from his instructor—he disconnects his headset.

VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1 (BR) CORPS

On Thursday 5 November we received a visit from **Brig Waugh** Commander Communications 1 (BR) Corps.

Maj 'Jail 'em Jim' Shaw makes a point to Comd Comms, Brig Tim Waugh, Cpl Kev Potter looks on mockingly

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We say a sad farewell to **Sgt 'Mick' Applegarth** and his wife **Sue** who are off to Catterick. Also, bon voyage to **LCpl 'Wendy' McNaught** who leaves us for 39 Inf Bde. Both lads will be sadly missed, on the sporting front, at least!

Welcome to our new LAD main man, **SSgt Ian Hill** and his wife **Vivienne**. And, welcome to **LCpl Norman Crook** who has swopped 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, out of the frying pan and into the fire.

SSgt 'Jack' Bob Wright took a 12 man team to the 100 mile Nijmegen International Marches in July. The team did a considerable amount of pre-march training which stood them in good stead as they returned with a Team medal and individual medals. **Sig 'Geordie' Hogg** nearly managed to carry the flag for a whole day, the 2IC nearly managed to sing and **Sig 'Barney-Rubble' Cunningham** nearly managed a smile. The week was certainly hard work, but an experience that team will not forget.

A Yeoman's lot is a wide and varied one, and to underline this **WO2 Mick Drake** organised another highly successful Soltau 30km Road Race. The race attracted 63 teams consisting of both Army and civilian entries and raised DM 600 for the Jerboa School Fund.

EXERCISE REFORGER 87

September saw the Squadron heavily involved in Ex Reforger in a wide variety of jobs. **Cpl 'Geordie' Whitehead** became a block NCO and now hopes to get a job as a caretaker in a girls school. **Sgt 'Mick' Applegarth** was seconded to 22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn to run ACC 2 for them. **Sig Hope** worked as a barman in the Officers' Mess and dived for cover each time a French Officer walked in.

Now that the exercise has finished the Squadron is slowly returning to normal. However the fresh crop of Spams has brought out the Squadron magpies, alias **Mahoney** and **Wright**.

PROMOTION

Maj James Shaw MBE was selected for promotion to Lieuteant Colonel this year. Many congratulations Boss.

Day Four. Spirits not so high but only another 30km to go!

201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde) BFPO 30

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj D. J. Wills**
2IC	**Capt R. A. Sharp**
OC A	**Lt P. J. Watt**
OC B	**Lt H. M. Flint**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Boyle**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Sykes**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Dott**
SQMS	**SSgt Riley**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Jones**

Although much of the Squadron effort during the summer months has been directed at preparing for Ex Certain Strike, the umpire element of Ex Reforger, we still found time to carry out several adventure training projects, infantry training and organise a summer fete for charity.

INFANTRY TRAINING

Here in Hohne we share a large camp with four major units including 1 Bn Welsh Guards. We were invited to provide a platoon of men to assist them on their test exercise on Soltau Training Area . . . A report by **Cpl Chris Rix.**

The 27 unsuspecting men were divided into three sections. My section of nine men (consisting of five different cap badges) was thrown together complete with their own AFV 432 to become 3 Section, 7 Platoon, 3 Coy 1 Welsh Guards. To say that we were a little unprepared would be the understatement of the year, but the men of 3 Coy soon gathered us into the fold and helped us during the first few days to prepare the vehicle, practicing debussing and section drills. The first week involved Section, Platoon and Company attacks. By the end of the week we had moulded ourselves into a fairly good team. Following a short weekend break on Soltau Trg Area we embarked on the second week of the exercise which involved Battle group sized manoeuvres. The first, saw us as part of a fighting withdrawal over a distance of approximately 25km. The first stage being in the 432 and it was at this point that **LCpl 'Nuts' Nuttall** showed the WG his expertise at replacing a thrown track in three minutes!

After setting up ambushes and obstacles we then debussed and set off on foot to a prearranged HLS where we were briefed by an RAF loadmaster on how to climb out of the chopper when hovering at about '15m maximum' (his words, not mine). Following a very exciting, fast, low level flight to the DOP we hovered over the objective at about '30m minimum'. Climbing down the rope it seemed more like 130m but we all arrived unscathed, even **Sig 'Goody' Goodman** who believed the roadmaster's brief and subsequently let go of the rope after descending 15m!

There then followed some frantic trench digging (the first of many). Once we had dug our trenches, with only minutes to spare, we were attacked by Helicopters, 432s, Scorpions and Main Battle Tanks. At this stage a tactical retreat was called for and no encouragement was needed for everyone to abandon their trenches and 'run away'. Friday was our big day to attack—followed by endex. The night before the attack our section's mission was threefold—to clear a wood and place an FOO in an OP. To check bridges in the area for mines, and the most important task, to map out the location of the enemy forward positions. The mission started out at 2200 hrs and the patrol consisted of myself, **LCpl 'Nuts' Nuttall, Pte 'Mick' Callander** and **Dvr 'Gearbox' Neary**, together with the FOO and his assistant. The first task of setting up the FOO's position was relatively easy (the fact that he was subsequently discovered and spent the night as a POW was not our fault). The second task proved more difficult as the bridge we had to recce was mined and the only way round it was through a semi-swamp. The final task of mapping the enemy positions proved both difficult and time consuming, but was finally completed at 0330 hrs which meant a very rapid return to our location before first light. On our return we only had about half an hour for a debrief by the Platoon Commander before we were off again to prepare for the day's attack.

The attack will be remembered most for all by **LCpl Chris Price** who had the uneniviable honour of being 'beaten up' three times during the 'fight through'. **Cfn Martin Allso** will also remember how he was dragged from the driving seat of our 432 and held down as one of the enemy drove it away! The attack was a success and we did eventually find our 432 and its driver. After this, Endex came in the form of a full Battle Group attack where we were completely obliterated.

All in all it was a very memorable and enjoyable exercise which taught us all a lot about mechanised infantry skills and we would all like to thank the 1 Bn of the Welsh Guards for putting up with us for the two weeks. Those taking part were: **Cpl Chris Rix, LCpls Chris Price, 'Nuts' Nuttall, Pte Mick Callander, Cfn Martin Allso, Pte Mark Bailey, Dvr 'Gearbox' Neary, Sig 'Mac' McKindland** and **Sig 'Goody' Goodman**.

PXR—EXERCISE MEDICINE MAN 3

Report by LCpl Chris Price

The aim of the exercise held 4-29 August 1987 was to give realistic battle conditions to a full battle group so live ammunition was used by all parties. The members who took part were each attached to a different platoon of No 2 Coy 1 Welsh Guards. They were: **LCpl Chris Price**—6 Platoon, **Sig Ian Scrivens**—5 Platoon and **Sig Mick Turnbull**—4 Platoon.

The flight out from Gutersloh took 11 hours which included a stop over in Iceland. We arrived in Calgary, Alberta, Canada at 1400 hrs which was only three hours from setting off at Gutersloh!

From Calgary it was a two hour coach journey to Suffield Training Camp. There, we were put into platoon accommodation and from there we went to a safety briefing.

The following morning the exercise started with a move out to the prairies. The next couple of days concentrated on zeroing, safety briefs and practising debus from vehicles.

For the next four days we did debussing drills on to enemy positions, using only infantry. We spent one day maintaining our vehicles. In the following four days, tanks and artillery were introduced into the attacks giving more of an emphasis on cooperation between the different units and on the Officers to get timings perfect. The next day was the most physically demanding of the exercise. It involved a river crossing, followed by a 12 mile tab, a mine breach and onto an attack on an objective on the highest hill on the prairie. The day after was another maintenance day where we had a barbecue and a few drinks.

There were now only three days left in the field and so started the last phase of the exercise. This was attack after attack, finally ending in four attacks designed to test every aspect of the training given to the Battle Group. It was now time to go back to Suffield and two days of range clearing and vehicle maintenance. As soon as this was finished and the vehicles handed over, four days of R&R started in which we managed to tour the City of Calgary.

There were numerous lessons and points learned and picked up over the exercise but the most important was the principle of marksmanship, being able swiftly to acquire and engage a target with well aimed fire.

SQUADRON FETE

The Squadron held its annual fete on Saturday 29 August, organised by **SSgt Pete Stemmer** who ensured that all the usual stalls and sideshows were 'up and working'.

The monies from the fete went towards various causes including **Sig McMahon** from 7 Bde who lost both legs in a tragic accident. The highlight of the afternoon was a Dutch auction for the privelege of putting a custard pie in a well known personalities face. When bidding finally stopped at DM415, **Cpl 'Gnasher' Dennis** was left holding the pie. However, **SSM 'Mick' Boyle** bravely stood in front of the OC and took the pie squarely on the chin. **Sgt 'Gus' Murray**'s wife, **Gale** won the chance to crush a car (suitably stripped of glass and petrol tank) with an AFV 434 under the expert guidance of **Cpl 'Lester' Piggott.** The total amount raised during the afternoon was a grand DM1,300.

Cpl 'Lester' Piggott cautions Mrs Gale Murray driving the 432 as she parks alongside the OC's new car

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome to the Squadron **Sgt Chalk AAC, Cpl Yerkess, LCpls McClusky, Hope, Basford, Hooper** and **Sig Dobson**. We hope they enjoy their tours with 210 Sig Sqn.

DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Sgt Nicholson**, posted to School of Signals and **Pte Burrows** now with 187 (Trancred) Coy RPC, Tidworth. We wish them all the best in their new postings.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations go to **Cpl 'Robbo' Robinson** and **LCpl Gordon Tunstall** on their recent promotions.

212 Sig Sqn (12 Armd Bde) BFPO 36

'Two for the price of one,' this month as 212 Sig Sqn *Wire* notes bring you 'What we did on our summer holidays' and 'Ex Reforger 87', or 'I'll swop you a cap badge for that camp cot, mate'.

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Jon Henderson**
2IC	**Capt Richard Giles**
OC Oscar	**Lt Richard Butlin**
OC Papa	**Lt Andy Hill**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Bob Brown**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Dave Wright**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Ian Hugill**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Graham Hackett**

AVAST THERE, ME HEARTIES, IT'S THE R SIGNALS MINOR UNITS DINGHY SAILING CHAMPIONS

Still with the taste of victory from the previous year, the Squadron sailing team returned to the Corps Sailing Championships, held at the Mohnesee, to defend the little they won the previous year. Veteran sailors (in experience, not age) **Capt Richard Giles** and **Sig 'Spock' Kirk** were confident. **Cpl 'Spick' Bekret** with his crew **Sig 'Spaceman' Byrom** were not so sure. 211 Sig Sqn put up a tough fight. But after three races and some exciting team racing 211 Sig Sqn emerged as the Minor Units Dinghy Sailing Champions for the second year running!

THE SQMS DEPT SUMMER HOLS

While everyone else went to Gibraltar, Switzerland and even on Ex Reforger, the trusty Q dept kept the home fires burning. In the recent Squadron Veh treasure hunt the **SQMS Graham Hackett** took first place and **Cpl John Williams** collected second. Meanwhile the dept athlete **LCpl Archie Brown** managed second place in the Morrison Cup minor units 200m.

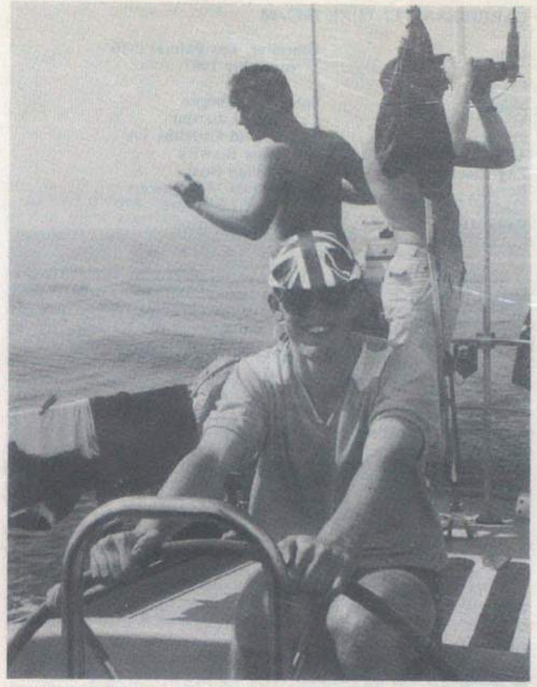
On the work side, and we do do some, the dept has just finished a final period of self accounting which was declared a success, due mainly to the hard work of all concerned.

AHOY THERE SHIPMATES—EXERCISE WINTER TALE LEG ONE OR IS IT MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY!

The loyal crew arrived at Gosport on 24 August 1987 in company with two real sailors and **WOCdt Katrina Merryless**, to join their sturdy ship, a Nicholson 55 called *Kukri*. As that experienced salty seadog, **Capt Richard Giles** looked at his crew he wished they were as sharp as the legendary Gurkh blade. There was **LCpls Paul 'Maggot' Blyth, John Barclay** and **Steve 'Sponge, I'm a technician' Pattenden** arguing about which end was the front.

The first leg of the trip took them to Cherbourg, 18 hours of the high seas that saw seven of the young crew leaning over the side talking to the fish. **Sig John 'Bucket' Fairley** prefered to use his bucket, through which he was seen trying to talk to God.

The next port of call was Cameray where the peace and quiet was the perfect setting for a rest and some well earned refreshment provided by the famous French wines. Then down into Spain where the crew resembled Patrick Moore when using sign language to haggle for a shower. Lisbon in Portugal came next and was easily voted the most popular stop where the atmosphere was exotic and booze plentiful, something both **Sig Damon 'Skeksy' Carroll** and **Sig James 'Edge' Edgley** vouched for.



Sig Jim 'Where's my pet shop boys cap' Edgley, Dave Beauchamp hiding his lack of sun tan and LCpl J. B. Barclay helming off the Spanish coast

Villamoura was another two days hard sailing away but the crew had got their sea legs by now and even **Sig John 'Bucket' Fairley** smiled sometimes. Setting out again after Villamoura the duty cook was **Sig Dave Beauchamp (Oddjob)** who was suffering from a late night. But despite his cookery talents the ship finally docked at the last stop: Gibraltar.

At the thought of going back to work the crew tried to desert to Africa but didn't have enough for the ferry fare. At the farewell party the crew said goodbye to **LCpl Wilf Milnes** who had been on loan from 2 Sqn 1ADSR, to the only real sailors on board: **Lt Cmdr John Hall** and **CPO John 'Snorka' Drew** for whom no praise was high enough for their patience with the 'Land Lubbers', and especially to **WOCdt Katrina 'Troni' Merryless** who put up with lots of stick for being the only girl and was a great sport throughout.

In thanks for his hard work organising the trip the lads let **Capt Richard Giles 'Hollow-legs'** introduce them to a few cocktails of his aquaintance. The perfect end to a great expedition.

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE/REFORGER 87

The story of this exercise is really many stories because the Squadron was dispersed all over the Corps area. There was the area Control Centre at Nienburg, 2 (US) Armd Div Tac HQ, their TOC HQ and other equally strange places . . .

THE ACC STORY

(Or 'The Blanchard Bks Hilton has a quiet couple of weeks')

The Exercise started with the Squadron deploying on Friday 4 September to Nienburg to build the area control centre, the Squadron's 43's chugged happily up route 65 until the plans and Tac vehicles decided they would like an outdoor pack lift in the 'Imbiss' car park. The Squadron arrived during the early afternoon and the complex build started. Problem number one, the PSA had failed to knock the holes in the wall for the cable lays—solution—**Cpl Steve Clark** with a sledge hammer and a borrowed brick chisel. We finally finished the 'Build' at last light, a skeleton crew was left to bring in Ptarmigan and the remainder of the Squadron returned to Osnabruck for the weekend.

Startex was Monday lunchtime, so we returned at first light Monday to carry out the tasks we had been given. The first few days were very slow to get going as the Americans were in staging areas well to our south. Friday 11 September was the first real day of comms. We deployed a Rebro chain from south of Osnabruck to north of the river Aller, at one stage we had seventeen Rebros under our command, this caused a re-supply problem with **Sgt Mark Suddaby** and **Sgt Mac McKinnon** (on loan from 3 Div) on the road 20 hours a day. The Rebro chains worked well, despite comments from all our visitors as to why we had rubber bands all over our maps in Comms Ops **(Maj John Henderson**'s pet fetish on how to keep track of Freqs). Visiting the Rebros became a pastime for off shift personnel, slowly we discovered that the Americans had moved into the high spots as well and camp cots were on offer for an 'Orange handbag'. By the end of the second week of the exercise ACC 4 was very quiet and it was decided that we should shut down and return all unwanted assets to Osnabruck. It was then that the OC arrived with a signal in his hand which was to change **Sgt Clive 'I'm back to Osnabruck' Doughty**'s plans. He was being promoted to Staff Sergeant and going to be redeployed into the field to join his Troop OC **Lt Richard Butlin** with the 2 (US) Div Umpire HQ. Oh yes, and on his return from exercise would be going to Verden for the rest of his tour as Div Wavell manager. As his landrover carried him away he could be seen frantically filling in a posting preference to the UK. TM Tp had to be dragged back to Osnabruck after their two weeks which included a canoeing trip with **FofS 'I can Eskimo roll' Hugill.** Under his able instruction they experienced the delights of a cold bath. The Lineys had to cope with a recurring cable fault that happened every night at 2100 hrs and took at least three hours to fix.

THE DTAC STORY

(Or 'Life in the combat zone with the "Hell on wheels" Division')

DTAK, DTOK and DSAT, have you ever been confused? Don't worry, **Lt Richard Butlin**'s attempt one night to give an explanation with a sauce bottle, a loaf of bread and a tin of marge on a GS table will clarify all—honest it will.

Cpl Pat Simpson our defence platoon (Chunky) Corporal was later seen giving **Pte Scouse Woosey** a crash course on American tactics and finished it in three minutes.

The exercise was busy at DTAK and DSAT with moves every 24 hours except for our line crews—**Sgt Rog Brown (LCpl Walt Husband, Sig Noddy Werner** and **Sig Mat** from 1 ADSR) who had to move twice every 24 hours.

DSAT was run smoothly by **Sgt 'Doc' Docherty** despite the mutinous efforts by the other four SNCOs there, especially **SSgt Wyn 'We're Moving'! Neish**. We would like to take this opportunity to thank **LCpl Husband**'s line crew from 1 ADSR and **LCpl Mick Ottley** and his crew from 22 Sig Regt for their support during the exercise.

THE DTOC STORY

(Or 'Has it started yet, and do our Allies know?')

The exercise got off to a good start when, at the beginning of week one **Cpl Mick Howard** during one of his rare moments of activity, decided to run full pelt in to the back door of a panzer. Unfortunately for him he forget to duck. This achieved two things. Firstly it proved that a technicians brains are really in his feet, and secondly it rendered **Sig Jock McKinnie** and **Sig Ian Sandman** totally incapable of any work for at least 15 minutes. The outcome was he received six stiches in his head and was sent back to ACC 4 where the rest of the Squadron's softies were.

Sig 'Spaceman' Byrom during a night move was practising his convoy drills in a landrover, when he somehow managed to lose a large American convoy travelling at 20 mph on an autobann. (He needs to practise). He must read up regularly on 1500w Gene's as well. He was convinced that a Gene with a full sediment bowl could run for at least six hours, which must be why he started the gene, but neglected to put the drop pipe in a can of benz.

Keep your unit notes **SHORT!**

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

THE ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GOES ON EXERCISE KEYSTONE
Report by Lt R. Littlejohns

Having gone out to Ex Summer Tide the hard way, by convoy crossing to Germany in 48 hrs, I persuaded **WO1 (YofS) McClelland** to find me a flight—the prospect of an LSL followed by a Landrover did not appeal. However, everything has its price—I was to experience air movement problems and the job of OC flight first hand.

My experiences on Summer Tide had prepared me for the bitter cold of Germany so I came equipped with two sleeping bags and a hot water bottle. Fortunately the QM had taken pity on the WRAC and accommodated us all in a centrally heated Panzer shed.

My particular niche on Ex Keystone was to man or in my case 'woman' the RCP/Information post on the night shift. This led to a topsy-turvy existence with steak for breakfast and cornflakes for dinner. You can get used to anything given time.

A major highlight of the exercise was the CDE visit where I was tasked to find 15 water carafes and Perrier water while **Maj Ray Briant** searched Germany for green baize table cloths. Having seized a legitimate opportunity to escape I persuaded **Padre Dodd** and **Sgt Maj Ian McDonald** that it was a good opportunity to go swimming in Holzminden, this made up for the rather ad hoc shower arrangements. After hours of searching we tracked down the carafes and brought them home.

For many the CDE visit was memorable. Three minutes into the General's briefing there was an almighty bang as the tail end of a German helicopter rolled through the briefing room window. Reactions varied from people hitting the deck, running out of the door or just sitting still—all very British! With no bones broken and just a crumpled helicopter the briefing carried on in spite of the drafts.

The taking of showers required some discreetness when cadging a shower in the German block as we were guarded by German soldiers.

Whilst on Ex Keystone I experienced my first Church service in the field. **Padre Dodd** was in fine voice, reaching the back of the crowd whilst leading the singing. **Padre Dodd** selected hymns which we all know.

During Ex Keystone I made the cultural trip to the East German border where it was 'watching them, watching you' as we all clicked away merrily with our cameras.

The night shift, as always, had its little peculiarities just to keep the mind alert—ours was the RCP connect four competition. **Sig Storey** must be given star points for effort.

A daily penance was the cross country run. In spite of what the PTIs said they never got any easier. However, with cordon bleu food at every meal, there was really no choice but to work some of it off.

The exercise passed all too quickly and soon it was back to Blighty leaving my green wellies behind for **Cpl Champkin**. As always life is never straight forward. Germany was cloaked in a blanket of fog which delayed our homeward flight by nine hours!

'Damm'—(A German Hubschrauber tries to join the CDE brief in the Gym)

CARRIBEAN VENTURE 1987/88

Leg:	**Gibraltar, Las Palmas 2-16 November 1987**
Crew	
Skipper:	**Sgt Allan Morgan**
Mate:	**Capt Bob Etherton**
Purser:	**LCpl David Griffiths TA**
A/Purser:	**Pte Diane Berwick**
Eng/Elec:	**LCpl Julian Boal**
Bosun:	**Pte Nichola Montgomery**
Medic:	**Pte Tracy Lissemore**
Radio Op:	**Cpl Kevin Johnson**
Cook:	**Molly**

In brilliant sunshine Leg 3 of Ex Carribean Venture 1987/88 set sail from Gibraltar on *Firebird*, a high tension 36ft, white decked yacht with a striking red hull which was to be our home for the next two weeks. The passage across from Gibraltar to the Canaries was an experience to remember, especially for the girls **Tracy, Diane** and last but not least **Molly; Molly** was our cook. The stern of the yacht became well known to them—'all together now heads overboard'—sea sickness is a terrible chore.

Three days at sea and a cry of 'four stranded whales sighted' was heard from the male crew, but not **Dave**—he was reading his book. In fact it was the four girls venturing on deck and exposing their pale white skin to the sun's rays. Another three days passed and it's 'Land Ahoy'; could land really be in sight or was it a mirage? A few hours later we arrived at the Island of Lanzarote. Here the yacht *Firebird* moored for one night and the crew relaxed.

The next destination was Fuerteventura. Once again it was more night sailing, four hours on shift, four hours off to reach Peurto de Rosaria. For the first time the two girls, **Pte 'Mickey' Montgomery** and **Pte Diane Berwick** attempted to change sail. Still on the island of Fuerteventura the next port of visit was El Gastillo. What a peaceful complex this was until the *Firebird* Gang arrived and all changed! A sunny day was forecast so the girls moved in on the beach. Later they met up with **LCpl Julian Boal** and **Cpl Kev Johnson** for a sauna. After 20 minutes it was all out time for a dip in the cool turquoise water pools and back into the sauna for another 20 minutes—sheer torture.

Our last port of call at Fuerteventura was Morro Jable. Unfortunately, the boat arrived after the sun had gone down and the moon was rising. Most of the crew after eating yet another stew with a difference, just lolled around on board the boat. 'Captain' **Bob** and **Pte Berwick** and not forgetting **Molly,** ventured on to dry land to explore. Unfortunately the island had a power cut and all was dark, but the three managed to stumble on a quaint restaurant. Here 'Captain' **Bob** relished a beer and ice cream while **Pte Berwick** chose fresh pineapple with ice cream and coke; **Molly,** managed an orange drink—no staying power. Soon the power was restored inside the building, but the streets were still without light. The three 'explorers' made their way back to the boat. Walking along on the pavement chatting away it seemed as if **Pte Berwick** had made other decisions, to go exploring 'down under'. **Pte Berwick** was there one minute, gone the next—actually she had fallen down a manhole!

The days were sailing by so on to the next island, Gran Canaria. The sun was blazing down as *Firebird* motored into the harbour. The boat was to stay four days. The crew all needed a shower but lo and behold none were to be found. Not to worry, a hose pipe would do the job. **Pte Berwick** was plucking up the courage to have a hose down at the quayside unaware that naked male Norwegians were going to lend a hand, or two as the case may be!

The sailing was near an end so that means one thing and one thing only—squeeky clean. Mention cleaning to the men and they are off the boat before lightning has the chance to strike. **Pte Tracy Lissemore** and **Pte 'Mickey' Montgomery** had the task of cleaning the galley while **Pte Diane Berwick** was tasked to clean the decks and hull and stern by hanging overboard—luckily managing to stay on board.

The sailing was over. Phew! What a relief. The *Firebird* crew had achieved their aim. A good time was had by all, despite the mishaps.

2 SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP EXERCISE SUMMER STROLL

As a finish to the term before block leave, 2 Sqn's 2IC, **Capt Yeomans** planned a nice little ramble through the Welsh countryside.

On Sunday 19 July we all set out for the Brecon Beacons to join the base camp which had been set up by **SQMS Davie Kerrant** and his merry men. After a welcoming evening meal cooked by the camp cooks, **Cpl Dave Osborne** and **Pte Shaun Moncrief** it was off to see the sights of Brecon.

Monday morning started with a kit issue followed by lessons in map reading from **Sgt (Chic) McGue (sorry) McCue**, first aid by **SSgt Tony Davis** and basha building by **SSgt Marty 'Slap'ed) Altham.**

At dark o'clock on Monday evening we headed out to the hills for a 7km night exercise, no one got lost. However, several people disappeared down invisible holes—no bones broken but a few shaken souls. The high point of the exercise was the three day exercise where sections competed for points. The exercise involved a march interspersed by command tasks. Each night the sections met up in a central location, one section who shall remain nameless managed to get into camp three hours after everyone else. I wasn't lost—just admiring the countryside!

On the last day all sections had to pass through the summit of Pen y fan and on down to a river crossing using rucksacks as flotation aids.

It was back to base camp for the end of the exercise. After drying out and a hot drink it was presentation time. The winning section was Radio Tp rejects made up of **LCpl Steve Thornley** and **Sig Tam Gibb** and **Rick Keeble.** The finale to the exercise was a barbecue. In spite of all the aches and pains a leaner and meaner 2 Sqn headed home for block leave full of war stories with which to impress the girls.

PS: Has anyone seen **SSM (Elda 20) Harrison**'s socks?

HANNIBALS HOBBLE
Report by LCpl Tim Pellett

The aim of this long distance walk was to cross the Alps from west to east roughly following in the steps of Hannibal. Our leader **Maj Paul (the beard) Oldfield** navigated the team of six from Loriol on the River Rhone in France to Torne Pellici, just over the border in Italy—a journey that took from 29 August to 10 September 1987.

The first few days were spent mainly on roads acclimatising ourselves to the heat and preparing ourselves for the stiff climbs to come. The blisters associated with long distance walking were not slow in coming. **SSgt Marty (Inspector Gadget) Altham** armed with syringe and soon sorted out the invalids.

On the second day we were taught not to trust French maps. After a 35km walk with difficult river crossings we arrived at the campsite marked on the map only to be told by an amused native that the site had closed five years ago and now there wasn't a bar or restaurant for at least 6km in any direction.

A few days later having regained some of the famous British sense of humour, we spent a night in the loft of a sheep barn. The smell was atrocious but at least it was warm and dry. **Sig Fergie Milne** announced he was going for a beer—wishful thinking we thought. However, true to his word, he returned with the amber liquid, having persuaded a local to drive him to the nearest town, open a closed shop and drive him all the way back. Ten out of ten for initiative and diplomacy.

Another 'funny' which eventually became very tedious was being followed by a stray dog. It resisted all attempts to chase it off and stayed with us for the next two days over fairly arduous terrain. It eventually got the message and with a Gallic shrug went to annoy a group of French Alpine soldiers instead.

Prior to the final leg of the journey we had a 'rest' day—relaxing by a swimming pool with the temperature hovering at 30°C (rough eh!). The last portion of the journey included the real climbing up and over the mountains.

In twelve days the team walked over 300km and climbed over 12,000m. The brown body award was won by **LCpl Tim Pellett** who says he is brown all over!

The weather was glorious throughout and the terrain a mixture of mountains and valleys. Every day had its ups and downs (no jokes intended) but on balance the route was the right mixture of climbing and easy walking. Anyone who would like details of the journey should contact **Maj Oldfield.**

'The Day Off'
From L to R: SSgt M. Altham, LCpl T. Pellett, Sig F. Milne, B Parry and LCpl S. Rook

The mob on the French-Italian border. Mt Viso with snow on behind.
Back Row L to R: LCpl Poole, Sig Milne and Maj Oldfield
Front Row L to R: Sig Parry, SSgt Altham and LCpl Pellett

Monte Viso in Italy looking from the French side. We walked all round it but thought better of climbing it. Photo taken from 3,152m, Mt Viso is 4,000ft+

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

CCX

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**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Dean Wood**

POSTINGS

Farewells this month to **WO2 (SSM) Al Gibbons** who leaves us for 36 Sig Regt (V). The Squadron awaits the arrival of the new SSM with bated breath. The other member of the hierarchy leaving this month is Chief Clerk **John O'Donnell** who goes to 14 Sig Regt, hopefully taking his headache box with him. Welcome though to the new Chief Clerk, **SSgt Dean Wood**, who arrived from 8 Inf Bde just in time to see the Squadron return from the USA.

Other departures this month have included **LCpl Micky Dyer** to 28 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Guppy' Singh** to 22 Sig Regt, and **LCpl 'Si' Wallis** to 249 Sig Sqn. As ever our best wishes to all for the future. Arrivals have included **LCpl 'Ozzy' Osborne** from 28 Sig Regt, **Cpl Dave Ruane** from the School, and **Sgt Mick Jenkins** from RAF Headley Court (he says he used to be in the Squadron, but no one here remembers him). It has been a month for promotions too. These include **Lt Andrew Fletcher, Cpl Ian Church** and **LCpl Wayne Peach**; congratulations to them.

EXERCISE KEYSTONE 87

Before the Squadron could start dreaming about California Girls, there was the slight matter of the 2 Inf Div FTX in BAOR to get out of the way as our correspondents relate:

Report by LCpl Jeff Crossley

'Ex Keystone, the largest exercise of the year, remember it? Who'll forget it. What a laugh. Well it was for members of Oscar Tp. The exercise started with a luxury cruise on an LSL, then an unintended but expected tour of the German countryside, thanks to **Lt Andy Duncan**. We eventually arrived at our destination and the radio dets set up in an orchard at the back of a gastatte. The complex was set up inside, once the landlady had recovered from the shock of having her recently refurbished gastatte taken over by soldiers. **LCpl 'Bush' Mallaney** was set the task of organising our defences. Sangars built, trenches dug, and the locals looking on in disbelief at what we'd done to their once quiet village. Our linemen, **Cpl 'Chopper' Church** and **LCpl 'Percy' Parkin** looked more like a demolition team, swinging from tree to tree laying kilometres of cable. Our Troop OC instantly went for pole position in the gold blanket award, only to find that **Tp Sgt Terry Gigg** and our power team, **Cpl Andy Munro** and **LCpl 'Pretty Boy' Peach** were already in joint first position'.

Report by Sig Carl Radley

For the rest of the exercise we moved location several times, a cement factory being the most notable location, the entire headquarters being covered in white clay. Anybody want some arctic cam-nets? The Recce Officer grew steadily more cynical as the size of the headquarters grew, and the staff demanded more and more space. By the time Endex finally came, the Brigade had been wiped out several times but the Headquarters attacked only once, by some incredibly fleet of foot Scorpions that got 70 miles behind enemy lines.

With Endex called we were to spend our R and R in Soest. We had seen enough rain on the exercise but we were in for some more. Once our vehicles were cleaned down our time was our own and the German beer flowed. We selpt in our vehicles and tents at night. One man, **LCpl 'Taff' Mallaney**, returned one night and decided to cook a can of beans in his tent, the result was the can exploded showering the tent in beans; very comical to witness. The rest of R&R was spent shopping in the local towns and buying up duty frees.

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE

The Regiment is currently suffering from 'Post Certain Strike Blues'. Ex Certain Strike was the culminisation of the 1987 Reforger series when 3 (US) Corps deployed from mainland USA to Germany and then took part in an FTX with British, Belgian, Dutch and German Troops as enemy. It was the largest exercise of its kind since the Second World War and it was 3 (British) Armd Div's task to umpire the whole multinational exercise. With the equivalent of two whole Corps from five different NATO nations participating, the umpire communications bill was very heavy and planning started early. Indeed our intrepid Ops Staff have lived, breathed and dreamt of nothing but Certain Strike since Christmas 1986!

We were required to provide secure communications down to player battalion level and down to individual obstacle police and engineer sections. We soon found that the communications needed would absorb not only all our regimental resources but also all Royal Signals rebroadcast stations in Germany, not to mention rebroadcast stations from RAC, RA, RE and AAC units. We also took under command some 140 SCRA Terminals on loan from just about every unit in 1 (BR) Corps. All these assets had to be earmarked, reallocated to Umpire teams, manned and equipped for their particular role and fully briefed. Last but certainly not least, the bulk of the Corps PTARMIGAN system deployed under command of 1 Sig Bde to support the British Umpire organisations and provide command communications for the player HQs involved.

Our first test was the rehearsal exercise—Ex Check Forge when most of the systems were checked out. However as one American remarked at the time 'You ain't seen nothing yet'. He was right! The opening week of Ex Certain Strike saw 50,000 Americans descend from the skies at Munster/Osnabruck and drive North to join battle with some 20,000 Orange Forces which included our own 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn and 14 Sig Regt.

The umpire communications system stood the test. More than that it gave the 2,000 or so signallers involved the best training in multi rebroadcast working, SCRA and PTARMIGAN they could have hoped for. As the Chief Umpire said after the exercise 'At no stage was exercise play held up or inhibited in any way by the inability of umpires to communicate with one another'.

Our thanks for tremendous co-operation go to our sister Corps and Divisional Signal Regiments who willingly loaned us rebroadcast and SCRA detachments and to 1 Sig Bde for immaculate PTARMIGAN communications.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj H. A. Ross**
2IC	**Lt L. Carr**
OC W Tp	**Lt I. Birleson**
OC X Tp	**Lt P. Smith (Des: Lt A Rodgers)**
OC Y Tp	**Lt L. Campbell-Black**
OC 2 Tp	**Lt P. M. R. Evans**
SSM	**WO2 M. Dobson**
FofS	**WO2 S. Bibby**
YofS	**SSgt S. Potterton**
SQMS	**SSgt I. Brereton**

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE 87

Ex Certain Strike 87 began at 1000 hrs Friday 4 September 1987 for the men of 1 Sqn with the OSC leaving Salamanca Square and finished at 2000 hrs Friday 25 September with the OSC (No 133 bye-the way!) being 'straight barred' onto Salamanca Square by the men of 1 Sqn.

Well done OSC. First out, Last In! (A tooth-Arm' at last!).

On this exercise Yankee Tp was smiled upon and received the honour of having the Old Soldiers Club in its location for 'the duration'. The main voice heard in deciding the OSC's location was that of **FofS Marcus Sulivan.** Twas **Marcus** who informed all and sundry that he had '. . . found the ideal real estate. A Bunker!'

This statement was grammatically correct, but why **SSM 'Geordie' Dobson, FofS 'Steve' Bibby, SSgt 'Gong-Hunter' Gillham** and **Sgt Scott Cameron,** turned up with their golf clubs was a complete mystery. A Bunker, yes a German War Bunker!!! (No golf course here lads!)

After setting-up in location we were honoured with a visit by the Forstmeister, who confirmed that the 'recces' were up to the usual standard with that immortal remark 'Who the hell are you?'

After **Scott Cameron** had conversed with/crawled to the Forstmeister, the stage was then set for a weekend of setting-up, getting familiar with the area, finding out where the beer tent is and when's the first shower run.

To their eternal credit, the lads of Yankee Tp maintained this attitude from day one of the exercise until endex. A credit to us all!

On the more sombre and more serious side it was sad to see the departure of **Lt David Bizley**, all the Troop wish him well on future postings and inevitable promotions. Hopefully we will keep in contact.

Other comings and goings at the OSC (and believe you me, they were numerous) are Hello's to **Lt 'Lenny' Carr**, on commissioning, to **WO2 (FofS) Steve Bibby, SSgt (YofS) Stevie Potterton** and especially to **SSgt Bob Carmichael** who is on Ex Long Look, welcome all.

Sadly, arrivals mean departures and leaving the management team are: Mr Nightshift **Capt Graham (Greene) Lewis-Taylor**, who is putting in a starboard tack all the way to Blandford. We wish **Graham** and **Cherry** all the best for the future (by the way **Cherry** is a Major)! **Mr 'Who needs a clutch!, WO2 (FofS) Marcus Sulivan**. To **WO2 (YofS) Chris Heeles**, here's hoping that **Chris** and **Val** enjoy their tour at 7 Sig Regt.

A final comment however must be left to **WO2 (FofS) Steve 'I'm going to use these clubs' Bibby**. A TN had to be deployed in a location where they could access the 'System'. Three cheers for **Steve Bibby** who convinced everybody that the ideal location was the nearest Golf Course and that he should supervise all comms. Nice one **Steve**.

HELLO'S AND GOODBYES IN X RAY TROOP

Goodbyes to: **SSgt 'Honeymonster' Hodds**, his wife **Anne** and their two boys **John Paul** and **Ben**, off to 2 Div in York, (he's just come back for four weeks exercise!)

Cpl (Sgt on posting) 'Taff' Huzzey and his wife **Trish** off to 40 Sig Regt (V).

LCpl 'Hello Sailor' Downie off to sail for 30 Sig Regt. **Sig Vince 'Patel' Vincent** away to a corner shop in 28 Sig Regt.

Hello's to: **SSgt Graham Guy**, his wife **Lorna-Jane** from 8 Sig Regt, hope you enjoy it here. And a warm welcome awaits anyone who wants to come here, we need some bodies to man the trucks!

PICK A DIVISION
Report by Sig Gary Greaves

It all happened when soldiers from all over 7 Sig Regt were told the three little words 'Pick a Div'.

So 30 of us opted for 3 Div not realising just what we had let ourselves in for.

A couple of exercises to establish that we could communicate.

A week of drill to establish that we could walk in straight lines.

After that we thought there would be nothing to top the enjoyment but there was, a PRE, and what great fun we had seeing if you could get as much paint on your crewmen as on your wagon (you can).

PRE's over nothing can stop us now—or so we thought.

His name was **Maj Worral,** appointed QM(T), so we had another obstacle to pass on our ever eventful journey to 3 Div. QM came, QM went. 3 Div's QM came 3 Div's QM went. The boys had done it. We're on our way.

The move down went quite smoothly. Arrived 3 Div and had photos taken of BAOR's prettiest Node. Parked up and went back to 7 Sig Regt for our last night in Herford.

It was the next day that I met two of the bravest men of all time, **Lt Evans** and **LCpl 'Jake' Jacobs**. They were attempting to travel to 3 Div in their cars (nearly cars), and rumour has it that at one point on the Autobahn going down-hill with a strong tail wind they reached 30km/hr, without being shaken to death. I can only say that these two men deserve the highest award for bravery beyond the call of duty.

So well done we had arrived at 3 Div. We said our 'Hello's' to the OC, SSM and the CO, the rest was history.

2 SQUADRON
Report by 2Lt T. J. S. Allen

OC	**Maj David Lynam MBE**
SSM	**WO2 Frank McCormick**
OC 'O' Tp	**2Lt Tim Allen**
OC 'R' Tp	**2Lt Simon Spiers**
OC 'T' Tp	**Lt Keith Whitehead**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Joe Murray**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) 'Gig'Plumb**
SQMS	**SSgt John Bell**

EINGANG UND AUSGANG

The Squadron has had a phenomenal turn over during the past couple of months and we have said 'farewell' to **LCpl Kev 'Bacardi' Potts,** though it took a long time to say it. New arrivals include **SSgt (FofS) Gig 'Don't call me Clifford' Plumb, Sgt Paul West** from 22 Sig Regt and **Cpl Andy 'Give me a quarter or else' Craig** and his wife **Lee.** 8 Sig Regt have had their training format completely changed as Signalmen two months 'out of the egg' can now consider themselves wordly-wise enough to call other people 'Sprogs'—thanks for that **Sig Link.**

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE

In amongst the Squadron 'bobbing and weaving' due to numerous amazingly RSM-like 'get him away's' and 'we're going to have words' from **Sig Fred Gee,** the Squadron was pre-occupied with Ex Certain Strike throughout the month of September. We became UCC assets with Radio Tp scattering to the four winds under the watchful eye of **Sgt Mac McKinnon,** and Oscar Tp becoming rent-a-det with one panzer being attached to every Regimental size umpire team.

We all thought that working with the 'US Troops' would provide us with a lot of stories to be told in NAAFIs throughout the world for years to come; this did happen, though some of the British Forces and indeed some of 2 Sqn managed to rival our NATO allies in this respect.

Two men who will remain anonymous asked, seemingly quite innocently, if they could go to the bank. However this was denied as they wanted to go to the Soest branch of the Sparkasse and they were in Fallingbostel. Next time they'll ask a Troop Commander instead of a SNCO! Throughout 'Ex Acquire Camp Bed' **Maj David 'faith healer' Lynam MBE** was attempting to remedy problems throughout the countryside with the Squadron Yeoman. **SSgt (YofS) Joe 'Pathfinder' Murray** always managed to get there despite being navigationally embarrassed, and he is seeing the young commanders for an intensive map reading course, ahem. The OC, under the pseudonym of 'The Phantom Warrior' always achieved his aim in solving comms problems on his reputation alone. The UCC comms ops soon realised that all difficulties could be solved in 'figures ten' by one simple, all encompassing statement: **'Maj Lynam** is on his way'. The phrase 'If second best won't do, 2 Sqn will get comms for you' became a NATO byword. 7 Bde staff were not too popular as they intervened in plans to refurbish the Squadron. However the SQMS, **SSgt John 'It's all in hand' Bell** has got the problem 'in hand'. Whilst approaching a river crossing, a US 'Lootenant' enquired of **WO2 (SSM) Frank 'Golf Bandit' McCormick** if the FFR would become amphibious if he operated the lever with fans on it. The SSM replied that he would get hot quickly and sink even more quickly.

The worst kept secret was the **Sig 'Spic' Sirigano** suitcase escapade; in armoured vehicle circles, the 'funnel fuel collapsible' is lovingly known as 'the suitcase' and enables 'panzers' to be refuelled quite quickly. **SSgt 'Trev' Jenkins,** (who was accused of smiling on exercise) told the aforementioned signalmen to 'get the suitcase'. A lot of crews in the immediate vicinity did impressions of dead flies as **Sig Sirigano** turned up and handed **SSgt J** an army GS suitcase—then he wondered why his clothes smelt of diesel.

STAFF QUERIES OVERHEARD BY 2 SQUADRON

That 'funny noise' is dial-tone, sir.
No sir, there is no need to do a radio check with SCRA.
Can't I have an RRB for every umpire?
Tromboning has nothing to do with the Corps Band, sir.

Amidst the admin problems was how to get **Sig Kennison** off the square and off a diet of educational magazines, and how to organise a bus service. The SQMS was tasked with providing a bus service between the RRB detachments and the various ACCs for showers etc. The men all wanted to go to 'Bills Palace' which was an RRB cluster belonging to **Cpl Bill Clark** and **LCpl 'Scouse' Williams** as this made the tented camp at the UCC look like a 'poncho and four bungies'. A shower in a 9 × 9, videos, video games, Egon Ronay recommended 'egg banjos' and a penthouse suite were abundant at the Costa del Clark. No slumming it for 2 Sqn.

INTER-TROOP TRIATHLON/BARBECUE/RAFT RACE

Just prior to deployment on Ex Certain Strike, the Squadron let its hair down at the Mohnesee Sailing Club for a day of sports, a raft race and a families barbecue. Tango Tp won the day, and hence acquired numerous yellow handbags. Talking of which, **2Lt Simon 'I'm going on a recce . . . again' Spiers** saw his Troop raft in dire trouble, so he did the decent thing and swam out to the 'sinking ship' and improved morale with a ten-pack. Next time his teeth will remind him to remember a bottle opener! All the wives enjoyed themselves as much as the men and we all look forward to similar proceedings next year.

SSgt 'Trev' Jenkins and **Cpl John Lynch** acquired such a taste for

dinghy sailing thanks to **Cpl Craig Avey-Hebditch** and **Sig 'Geordie' Lunn** that they saw the YofS when they returned and applied for a course. This wasn't taken into consideration when the Regiment was 'crashed out' the evening prior to the course. Still, at least they got a bid in for the course Yeoman. **SSgt (YofS) Joe 'Courses on Tuesdays and Thursdays only' Murray's** list of reasons why you can't go on the course has increased with the co-location of the new Squadron Foreman.

SQUADRON TRAINING

The Squadron has been briefed on the new sighting reporting procedures to accompany the SOXMIS syndrome. If anybody sees either OC Oscar or OC Radio in uniform or at work for more than 10 minutes per day then they are to fill out a 'Troop Commanders Sighting Card' and pass it to the OC.

The Squadron continued saying farewell throughout the month of October and November, notably to **Cpl Bob Pye,** (who will be sadly missed by the local population) and **LCpls Williams, Smith** and **Sheppard,** the latter to civilian life, so best wishes for the future go to him.

INTER SQUADRON BOXING CHAMPIONS 1987

It was with great joy that **Sig Link** lifted the Inter-Squadron Boxing trophy on Friday 30 October. The team performed excellently throughout the preliminaries and the finals themselves, with notable performances from **LCpl Anderson** and **Sig Link, Thompson** and **Sirigano,** who all received winners medals. However, without the commitment and courage displayed by all the team who were brave enough to climb into the ring the trophy would not have returned to 2 Sqn. A special mention must go to **LCpl Jarvis** who trained the team to a high standard in a short time. **Sig Thompson** is now famous for his exploits in the Sergeants' Mess during the victory drinks.

2 Sqn Boxing Team
L to R (Back): Sig Cunningham, Hastings, Church, WO2 (SSM) McCormick, Sig Sirignano and LCpl Jarvis
L to R (Front): Sig Link, LCpl Anderson, Sig Smithurst, Cpl Newton and Sig Thompson

INTER-SQUADRON SPORTS

Despite having the usual commitment of providing crew and vehicles to umpire other units and their exercises, the Squadron managed creditable performances in the squash and hockey competitions. However, the fourth place in the cross country was a disappointment in comparison to the usual high standard within the Squadrons of the Regiment.

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. V. J. Brannigan**
OC S Tp	**Capt S. P. R. Lowe**
OC N Tp	**Capt G. M. Smith**
OC P Tp	Situation Vacant
Attached	**2Lt J. Norris**
SSM	**WO2 D. Coker**
YofS	**SSgt C. D. Pugh**
SQMS	**SSgt J. A. Burgess**

Over the last two months the Squadron has been very busy preparing for the big exercise of the year, Ex Certain Strike. During this time we have said goodbye to some old friends and welcomed new ones into the Squadron. Out go **Capt Andy James, 2Lt Jeremy Hotchkis, SSgt Honey, Sgt Herbert** (RCT attached), **LCpl Duffy** and **Sig Tondeur.** The Squadron extends its best wishes to them and their families and the best for the future. In come **SSgt Spencer, Sgts Bingham, Phillips,** (and congratulations on his promotion), **Sig Caulfield, Wates, Flahaven, Wooley, Ahmed** and **Whyte.** To these we extend a very warm welcome and hope that they will enjoy their time with the Squadron.

CERTAIN STRIKE

This was going to be a good one. Our role was to provide communications and, with HQ Sqn, admin support for one of the four umpire Area Control Centres. Our role had been practised during Ex Check Forge and we deployed confident that we had sorted out all the main problems. Then the Americans arrived. We have slowly become used to working with our NATO allies in Germany but meeting the Americans and working together on such a large exercise was a rare opportunity. Their rousing chorus of 'Sound off . . 1 . . 2 sound off 3 . . 4' as they departed that first morning on a company run surprised most, especially those who had just finished the night shift! During the exercise **2Lt John Norris** arrived and on his first task was asked to inspect the Squadron. His jaw dropped visibly when he was presented with the entire multi-national contingent of ACC 1. Having the Americans on board offered an excellent opportunity for some sporting fixtures. The first was a football match, English style, which the Squadron won 18—1. It was a different story, however, during the American version when they thrashed us. Rugby seemed perhaps a game which would be a better match—the game can best be described as physical with the Brits winning by some very determined play.

During the three weeks of the exercise we got to know the Americans very well and made some good friends. We look forward, perhaps, to a re-match in Frankfurt in the not too distant future.

SSM Coker receives his 'Baseball' Cap from the Americans

INTER-SQUADRON TRIATHLON

We had promised ourselves some training during Certain Strike for this regimental competition but somehow were always too busy. It was

3 Sqn Triathlon Teams
Top Row L to R: SSgt Williams (Team Captain) The 'B' Team, LCpls Spokes, Rose and Lowe
Bottom Row L to R: LCpl Crawford, Sgt Bingham and Cpl Pavier

with some trepidation then that only five days after the exercise the team started this gruelling competition. After two rounds, an extremely cold swim and a shoot, the Squadron 'B' team were proudly ahead of the 'A' team. However, the run soon set the balance straight and the A team took the winners medals for the competition. **LCpl Pavier** also won the individual medal for the swim and did very well and took part in the divisional competition representing the Regiment.

EXERCISE CLIMBING TRIANGLE

Back from his Himalayan travels **Capt Lowe** has been out with some of the lads to the local crags. **Sig 'Kenny' Kendrick, Martin, Plumb** and **'Skeg' Jennings** are some of the cast who can regularly be seen being dragged up the rocks. Despite their pleas of '. . . but there aren't any hand holds, sir!' they did remarkably well.

Sig 'I hate this' Plumb reaches the top

THE WIVES OPEN DAY
By a 3 Sqn wife

To say it was a day to be remembered was an understatement, I think we will all be talking about it next year!

3 Sqn personnel had organised a day out for the wives and children to experience what their husbands have to contend with in the field and on a typical working day. The weather was not particularly ideal, but then we do not normally have the chance to go slushing about in the mud! The children revelled in the conditions.

As we watched the proceedings of a Squadron Parade, the OC **Maj Bob Brannigan** had better ideas for us than spectating; he delegated command of his Squadron and the wives took over the roles of troop commanders. **Gilly Jameson** took over the role of SSM from **WO2 Dereck Coker, Cheri Clement** took over from the OC and **Anneliese Wood, Karen Keers** and **Liz Coker** became OCs of Support, Papa and November Troops; all did extremely well although OC November Tp could have shouted a little louder and if **Karen Keers** had sent any more to jail the day would have had to have been cancelled. The troops did get their own back however when **Michelle Smith** went to jail for having her hair too long.

We were then formed into the **'Ladies Troop'** and marched off by **Sig Willy Whitelaw** on a guided tour of the vehicle park. The daily checks were explained to us and we were amazed at the amount of maintenance required to keep them in good order, but in retrospect the conditions we got them in later in the day justified the work.

Moving on to the Headquarters which had been set up, the roles of the staff complex and communications complex and what each part of the equipment does when in the field was explained. For the first time we were beginning to understand what our men had to contend with on exercise. The vehicles themselves were extremely compact and how three or four people work in the back we will never know! We were then given a brief presentation by **SSgt (YofS) Chris Pugh** on how all the communications assets were employed in the field and how they complement each other.

Debbie Spencer took first prize of the day in the shape of a medal for winning the shooting competition arranged by **Capt Gary Smith** and **SSgt Ray Spencer.** All the wives competed and will admit that it was not easy. A couple of wives were sharp shooters and managed to knock the targets down, which was not the aim!

We were then herded into the minibuses and taken to the local ranges to continue our adventure. We were promised lunch in true style! By this time we were absolutely ravenous, it is amazing what a hard day's work can do for the appetite. Despite all the stories about Army Compo, it was delicious, though to see our husbands eating with plates and cutlery whilst we used mess tins caused much amusement.

Lunch was followed by a drive in the armoured vehicles. It didn't do much for a full stomach but was the highlight of the day. We were all instructed how to drive them and were then let loose on the world! It was just as well that we had the whole range to ourselves as there was nothing to crash into. The best part was when we approached the enormous mud filled hollows and managed to cover the vehicle and ourselves in mud. There is nothing like a mud pack!

The next item on the agenda was weapon cleaning, we had to strip a pistol, rifle and machine guns and then put them back together again. Easier said than done!

The final event of the day was the NBC practice which we had to endure; it was agonising. It was just as well we only had to put on the NBC suits and masks and attempt to eat and drink. It was extremely exhausting and most of the biscuit ended up inside the mask.

Everyone had a most enjoyable day, it was an experience never to be forgotten and we are all looking forward to the next one. Our thanks go to all members of 3 Sqn for an excellent day out.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

AFTER THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Once the Squadron had finally recovered from Ex Certain Strike (no thanks to **Sgt Stew Layton**'s imaginative and novel route card!), it looked forward to one of it's now infamous 'quiet periods'. A time for meditation, cogitation and procrastination, I hear you say. Not so! . . .

Monday morning and the RRBs and TAC deploy to help umpire Ex Keystone. Groans heard from **Sig Dave Pook,** our living exponent of a 1:32 scale soldier: 'But my wife, Sir . . .'. '. . . can wait, **Pook**' came OC **Maj David Proctor**'s reply. 'Besides you'll miss Ex Bullshine if you deploy today'. **Sig Pook** brightens visibly—separation hath its advantages after all!

Ex Bullshine itself was a Squadron military training exercise conducted over the middle fortnight of October. It encompassed the training necessary for the mandatory annual tests (APWT's, First Aid, Map Reading, NBC, Fitness Training etc) with a few interesting events such as a CQBR range, a section in defence range, and a march and shoot thrown in for good measure. The exercise proved imaginative, stimulating and successful (honest!). Needless to say it had its highlights, and so to the following we give our thanks:

To the SSM, **WO2 Phil Budden** for his morning PT sessions at the unearthly time of 0600 hrs—this took the form of a pre-dawn gallop round Paderborn to wake up the cockerels and 'shake the cobwebs out of one's system'.

To various Squadron members for discovering during the OC's initial kit inspection that webbing had other uses than filling the inside of a NAAFI carrier bag.

To **Cfn Glumph Parker** for demonstrating a new drill movement on parade (obviously straight out of the REME drill manual)—a salute to the left with his left hand.

To **Sig Erroll Ricketts** who took command of the same parade with the immortal words—'OK you guys' (SSM not amused).

To **Sig Steve Goodwin** for proving on the assault course that sliding down a knotted rope can have unfortunate repercussions.

To **Sgts Nick Hawley, Stew Layton** and **Cpl Jimmy Rock** for turning up at the CQBR range unsuitably dressed, (SSM not amused again!).

And finally to **LCpl Ginge McDonagh,** for having the courage to send off **Cpl Jimmy Rock** during the Inter-Tp Football.

Congratulations to the following successful teams:

Assault Course: Best Section—5 Section, Best Platoon—1 (Ardennes) Platoon.

March and Shoot: Best Section—5 Section, Best Platoon—2 (Rhine—no riff-raff) Platoon.

Inter-Tp Football: Winners—Ardennes; Joint Runners-up (or equal last, depending on one's philosophical standpoint)—Rhine and SHQ.

The high jinks provided by these two weeks were closely followed by Ex Taurus Knight and Ex Taurus Kanter, a week of BBGT and TEWTs for 33 Armd Bde.

The Sqn 2IC, **Capt Gary Mason** was initially tasked with the administration for the two exercises. Having studied the files however, he decided it all looked too difficult and promptly went on a colloquial German course leaving **Capts Mark Eaton** and **Nick Pope** to pick up the threads. That both exercises ran so smoothly is attributable in no small degree to their unceasing endeavours and cheerful enthusiastic approach. (Guess who wrote these notes!)

Special mention to **Cpl Greg Doughty** for emulating **LCpl Tony Jenner** in the back of a CNR-fitted Lynx, and to the GOC of 16 (BE) Div for pretending to understand what **LCpl Geordie Robinson** said to him—no one else can!

NOVEMBER MOVES . . .

The project to alleviate boredom during November's early weeks was to move the Squadron Headquarters into the Bde HQ, and the troop offices back into their original positions after the repair of the roof. All this while simultaneously preparing for a Brigade exercise, Ex Taurus Charge (Who chooses these names?). It's very frustrating when various details result in a Troop parade of three (two of whom are the Troop OC and Troop SNCO) for normal daily routine. Still, the new offices do look good, though YofS **Jeff Hattersley** complains of feeling as if he is in a goldfish bowl due to all the windows!

SPORTS DESK

Sport has had to take something of a backseat in recent months, though some has been managed.

RUGBY

The team has started off the season well, beating 5 ADFA 30—0 in the Cup. Congratulations especially to the forwards for a fine display; to the try scorers **Sig Trants Trantum, Capt Nick Pope, Cpl Jimmy Rock, Dvr Cleg Clenaghan** and **Sig Sean Wilkinson;** to **Sgt Nick Hawley** for converting all the tries (Heaven knows how!); and to the OC who went to watch but ended up reffing!

HOCKEY

Having lost several key players (especially the Brigade Commander!) the Squadron is in a period of consolidation and this year will concentrate on league results (ie we have been knocked out of the Cup!).

TRIATHLON

Had it not been for the 2IC **Capt Gary Mason's** overwhelming modesty (stupidity?) in placing himself in the BTeam, the Squadron would probably have walked the Regimental Competition, but as it was had to settle for second place. It fared better in the 3 Div competition however, where the team of **Cpl Kev Jarvis, Capt Gary Mason** and **LCpl Ally Simmons** finished as top minor unit.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We say a sad farewell to the following on posting:

Sgt Chris Bird ACC—on promotion to SSgt in Cyprus!, **Cpl Des Dolan**—to Belize, **Cpl Les Stimson**—to 11 Sig Regt, **LCpl Edgar Egan**—to 656 Sig Tp, **LCpl Dave Rutland REME**—to 3 Div, **LCpl Benny Cain REME**—to 1 Gren Gds!, **Sig Moff Moffat**—to the Regiment, **Dvr Paddy O'Leary**—to 206 Sig Sqn.

We wish them all the best in their new postings. We welcome **SSgt Dave Tennick** and **Sig 'Trants' Trantum** and hope they enjoy their tenures in the Squadron.

Congratulations go to **Cpl Paul** and **Sharon Harding** on the birth of a daughter **Jamie Louise** and to **LCpl Tony** and **Susan Jenner** on the birth of a daughter **Kirsty Louise.**

204 Sig Sqn (4 Armd Bde)
BFPO 17

SUMMER CAMP
BERNKASTEL-KUES, MOSEL

This years camp among the vineyards of Germany's best wine-producing area had a perceptible English flavour to it. Rain? It poured!

To an extent the gods were on our side as the heavens emptied regularly at around 0630 hrs—perfectly timed to ensure a cancellation of the early morning hill run.

The tented site was initially hard to find but when it did come into view the large, reassuring, Bernkastel-Pils advertisement on the beer trailer dispelled any doubts about its location.

An initial two day walking expedition, in the rain, left plenty of scope for individual initiative. **Sig Joe 'Sober' Sherwood** stopped all passing cars in Manderscheid until one occupant foolishly admitted his car was a taxi. A moment later the Section appeared in his car optimistic that it would suddenly develop four-wheel drive to negotiate the tracks to their overnight Schlafenplatz.

The 10 day period included canoeing, rock-climbing and cycling. **Lt Neil Griffiths** decided to take the cyclists wine-tasting, optimistic about his changes with the American nurses at Hahn. He didn't find any ditches to fall into this time!

The climax of the camp was our exchange visit with the nearby US Air Base Hahn. Among the excellent facilities thrown open to us was a large bowling alley which soon became the centre of the Squadron's social life.

The tour of the base included a closer look at some F16's which were putting in plenty of hours during our stay. Interest in them was soon displaced by the appearance of F15's taking off for our benefit—so we'd like to think.

It was nice to see that even the Americans were using some outdated valve radios alongside their otherwise spotless, high-tech equipment.

The Americans' return to our campsite was again accompanied by rain but with no loss since beer draughts can be played just as well inside as out. The British team of **Dvr 'Stevie' Stevens, Sig 'T.J.' Hooker** and **Pte Harry 'Maitre de Cuisine' Worth** won easily. Then they played the women! (and lost!!)

As the weather brightened activity began outside. **Sig Phil Eldridge** still had a few days to go before his 18th birthday so he went to play in the paddling pool. Unfortunately he mistook **2Lt Fred Whichelo** and **SSM Clive Young** for rubber ducks.

These 'Anglo American negotiations' continued into the early hours—later for those that returned to Hahn. Some good friends were made and we hope to see plenty of base-ball caps in Munster over the next year.

BERLIN MARATHON

The Berlin Marathon brought together 16,000 competitors of all shapes, colours and shoe-size. Among the churning multitude could be seen, if you looked very hard, five members of 204's up and coming cross-country team, the best recognition factor was the predominance of personal stereos and some very attractive headwear.

A three week's training void prior to the event, due to Ex Certain Strike, proved no obstacle. A very casual and enjoyable 27 miles was completed by the team in about 3 hrs 45 min, with plenty of wayside banana stops.

Sig 'Jimbo' Hawkins, the first of our team home, stopped a little too long at the British refreshment stand. He was unceremoniously chased back on to the route by one vociferous Yorkshire woman—'You'll not get far standing around like that lad!'

A little energy was spared to tour the famed Berlin nightlife. **LCpl Tommo 'Filmstar' Thompson** led us on our second marathon of the day in search of 'Mon Cherise' 204 Sig Sqns Berlin 'Mecca'.

No time was available to visit E Berlin but the team gained valuable experience in Anglo-Soviet relations on the return journey. We now have first hand information on the 'free collective bargaining' techniques of the modern Russian Army.

OPENING OF THE KIEPENKERL CLUB

After six months of hard work and considerable enterprise, the Squadron now has its new club. Without **SSgt Brian Tanner,** his wife **Ase** and their team of willing helpers it would not have been possible. Many long hours were spent transforming two of the SQMS's stores and what was once the Garrison Flower Club into what is now the best appointed Unit Club in Munster.

It must be said that this was not just an R Signals effort, indeed without the RPC we would still have three rooms, **Cpl Kev Lees** is an excellent sledge hammer operator. The others who deserve an individual mention are: **Sgt Andy Rimmel, Cpl Shuggy Hughes, Ptes Harrison, Simm** and **Woof** and one individual group TM Tp.

For those wondering about the name, it is named after a famous local basket man, whose statue stands in the city centre.

SQUADRON RUGBY WEEKEND TO ODENSE

The last weekend of October seemed like as good a time as any to take the Squadron Uglies on a short trip to Denmark. **Capt David Jones** volunteered to head the trip but unfortunately the skipper, **Cpl Chalkie Meek** would not come. 'Never mind' said **Kev** 'At least Big Ears is here'. **Cpl Cosgrove,** that is.

We arrived in fine fettle. A hard night's training followed and by 0130 hrs everyone was ready for bed. Unfortunately it was not to be. **Sig Shagrad Jones** managed to lock himself with everyone else's bedding inside our bedroom. Where was everyone else? Outside, cursing in a freezing minibus. It took two and a half hours to wake the little Welsh fellow (he was later voted the most popular man on tour).

Friday was spent training and sightseeing. Odense is the home of that famous man Hans Christian MacDonald. Friday evening passed in much the same was as Thursday and by 1000 hrs Saturday morning everyone was fit for the conflict. The A Team did reasonably well . . . they came last, the remainder (playing in the weaker half of the draw) were lucky and managed to come third overall.

Saturday evening was a cultural affair, **Cpl Joe Connelly** did his famous balloon trick, followed immediately by his impression of Jaws. **Dvr Stevie Stephens** made friends with a man mountain and proceeded to use him as his minder.

Sunday was a sober affair. The journey was longer but this time it only took two litres of milk and six aspirin, strange that. The finale was a tour of the sights of Munster at Mach 5. It would appear we were in danger of missing the singlies favourite programme 'East Enders'!

Brig Courage presents SSgt Brian and Mrs Tanner with their presents from the Squadron. Meanwhile the OC realises at last it is a Bar that we have built

Cpl 'Sluggy' Hughes passes on his drawing of the old man to another old man whilst a further two old men look on!

206 (6 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Andy Grey**
2IC	**Capt Viv Thatcher**
OC A Tp	**Capt Mike Stapleton**
OC B Tp	**Lt Jim Morley-Kirk**
SSM	**WO2 Frank McAleer**
YofS	**WO2 Ian Parry**
FofS	**SSgt Dave Boxall**
SQMS	**SSgt John Lamb**
CClk	**Sgt Barry Glossop**

ARRIVALS

Warm welcomes to the following who have recently joined our ranks:

SSgt Bob Varley, Cpls Farnell, Gosling and **Dave Nichol, LCpl Trew, Sigs Arthur Crown, Andy Jones, Jay Large, Gary Parker** and **Steve Gartside.**

DEPARTURES

Farewell and good luck to the following who have recently left us:

SSgt Harry Ray to Australia, **Cpl Vince Tyler, Sig Mick Green** to 39 Bde, LCpl Mark Hilson to ski with 'Top Camp' (!) and **Pte 'Junior' Rosegreen-Walters** to civilian life.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go out to the fathers (and mothers!) of some new arrivals:

LCpl Tony Edwards, Sig Andy Camm (twins!) and **Martin Herdman.**

Congratulations on promotion go to **Capt Mike Stapleton** and **Cpl Wayne Taylor RCT.**

EXERCISE KEYSTONE

Ex Keystone was the final exercise of the airmobile trial and took place over two weeks in October. Both HQ troops managed to get a lift on a Chinook or two during the exercise. However, in true form, the RAF called off the main flying move in perfect weather conditions due to mechanical trouble somewhere in BAOR. A few other notables from the exercise . . . **SSgt 'Kiwi' Carmichael** and **Cpl Terry Crook's** intrepid Comsec Monitoring vehicle played a dazzling role—complete

Sig 'Taff' Pike in Alpha 3 'Comms? What Comms?'

with somersaulting generator and recovery vehicle 'in direct support'. Once they actually got in location—an achievement in itself—they provided some valuable information to the staff and proved the effect that a little eavesdropping can do.

Capt Mike Stapleton was slightly bemused as he first lost all his SNCO's and then his troop played musical chairs by almost moving location several times—more like a shuffle really! But **Sgt Dave 'They've got to take notice of an HHI' Showell**'s face told the true story of air mobility as, with dayglow arms uplifted, his head turned to watch the Lynx fly past his HLS to land by the road 50 mtrs away!

EXERCISE TRUNDLING RHINO

Within a week and a half of returning from Ex Keystone, after much work in the garages, the Squadron redeployed in its armoured role on Ex Trundling Rhino. The reformed Alpha and Bravo troops rumbled south for three cold days in the Sauerland. It proved to be a valuable exercise to get used to being mechanical again. Movement, Comms, NBC, Defence and Night attacks all featured—and as for vehicle recovery—the LAD have seen enough already. It's enough to make you emigrate! Roll on Red Tricorn 3.

INTER SQUADRON BOXING

On 30 October, at the Regimental Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition, the Squadron was represented by **LCpl 'Spike' Arthur, LCpl Billy Seaforth** and **LCpl Willows.** In the prelims, after a gutsy effort, **LCpl Willows** was forced to retire with a dislocated shoulder however **LCpl Seaforth** and **LCpl Arthur** made it to the finals. Both fighters fought extremely well with **LCpl Arthur** being unlucky in having his fight stopped after a very close contest and **LCpl Seaforth** losing to a majority decision. Considering both men spent the ten days, prior to the competition, on exercise, they gave of their best and must be commended for their efforts.

DIVISIONAL CUP FOOTBALL

The Squadron was involved in another Cup match on 11 November against 5 Armd Wksps. Ten minutes into the match and we were already two goals down. Not to be deterred by this slight hiccup in our game-plan, the Squadron fought back with devastating goals from **Cpl Neil 'Ears' Fletcher** and **LCpl Eddy Edwards.** Two more goals followed in quick succession from **Sgt Copping** and **Cpl Jimmy 'The Mouth' Hanlon.** The 4—2 scoreline did not last long after half-time however. 5 Armd were at our throats from the whistle and as the match progressed our lack of training began to tell with 5 Armd pulling back three goals. We ran out eventual losers 4—5; a disappointing result (for us) after some great play. More matches and more training to come!

GOLF—THE KEN LEWIS TROPHY

On his departure from the Squadron, **Sgt Ken Lewis** kindly presented the golfing fraternity with a silver rose bowl, on the understanding that, once a year, a golf competition be held and the trophy presented to the winner. So, on 18 November, nine good men and true gathered together at the Royal Artillery Golf club, Dortmund, to do battle.

The day provided a few surprises , the first of which was that it actually stopped raining! At this point a special mention must go to both **LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson** and **Sig Kenny McNeil**, neither of whom had ever played before and, up until this point had thought the term 'Golf' was applied to a small family hatchback car of Germanic origin. As the day progressed it became apparent that some very good scores were in the offing. The 18th hole at Dortmund always proves to be entertaining due, in no small part, to the fact that: (a) as a Par 3 hole of approximately 90 metres, 80 metres of that is taken up by a very large, wet pond and (b) it is directly adjacent to the Clubhouse it is guaranteed to claim a ball or two or provide a pint or four! (Sometimes giving even the more proficient golfer the jitters). So it was to prove with **Cpl Steve Martin;** with a massed gallery of spectators made up from those already finished, he stepped confidently up to the tee and proceeded to terrorise both ducks and fish alike with a volley of three consecutive balls into the deepest reaches of the waiting pond—much to the mounting amusement of those looking on. The laughter reaching hysterical proportions by the time the last ball plopped, rather wetly, from sight.

Only nine holes could be played in the afternoon as both time and light slipped quickly away, however, at the end of an immensely enjoyable day, the final placings were as follows:

1st place (and the **Ken Lewis** Trophy Winner): **Cpl Jimmy Hanlon;** 2nd place: **LCpl Andy 'Thumper' Harriott;** 3rd Place: **Cpl Hamish 'McTucky' Hermiston.**

Those not yet mentioned in the day's events were: **Sgts Dave 'Shovel' Showell** and **Nick 'Pinnochio' Hawley, Cpl Buck 'Squint' Rogers** and **Sig Simon Chandler.** Without all their support the day would never have taken place. Finally, thanks to both **Cpls Hamish Hermiston** and **Steve Martin** for organising the whole thing and ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

PS: Thanks for your hospitality, 'Yorkie'.

DIVISIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY COMPETITION

Fresh from the ARU BFT/Cross Country Team Selection Race two days previously, the Squadron entered an eight man team in the Divisional Competition on the wet afternoon of 19 November. Five miles of splashing and sliding through muddy tracks was not a happy prospect as the team waited for the mass start. **Sig Jimmy Shand** redeemed himself from his orienteering performance and ran extremely well, coming is sixth place in the minor units race. **Lt Jim Morley-Kirk,** more used to Cyprus beaches and a sun-tan, followed him in with **Sig Gartfield** and **Large** close behind. **Sig Jock Moffat, Steve Emmett, Tom Hill** and **'Taff' Pike** all ran hard and the Squadron came in fourth position overall. Well done to all the runners and congratulations to the winners, 204 Sig Sqn.

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Undeterred by having mainly a novice team, the Squadron travelled up to Verden to take part in the BAOR Championships over the weekend 14-15 November. The first day was run through flat, wooded country at Hagensand, over an A course of 9kms and a B course of 5.5kms. **Lt Jim Morley-Kirk,** accompanied by his ace, ex-Harrogate orienteers, **Sig 'Ski' Barr** and **'Yod' Gilbert** took on the A course, while **Pte Glen Suttenwood** RPC, **Sig Paul Beckett** and **Jimmy Shand** bashed around the B. Although the leaders didn't sweat too much over our results, everyone completed the courses. Despite Saturday's day in the country, most of the team appeared very fragile on the Sunday morning—maybe something to do with the impromptu toga party and **Sig 'Ski' Barr**'s insatiable (and surprising) thirst.

Based on the previous day's performance, **Pte Glen Suttenwood** competed in the A team for the relay event at the Brelinge Berg—probably the only hill for 100 miles! **Sig 'Yod' Gilbert** put in an excellent performance leading the B team and **Sig Paul Beckett** also did well. The B team looked set to pick up a good position until **Sig Jimmy Shand** merrily ran off into the trees. Saturday night was obviously too much for **Sig 'Ski' Barr**'s navigation, his slightly overdue return eventually meant that **Pte Glen Suttenwood** was late away on the final leg. Quite fortunate really, though, as he brought **Sig Jimmy Shand** back in with him!

Well done to all those who ran. The valuable experience gained should stand us in good stead for the Inter-Squadron Competition next month.

EXERCISE NORDIC RHINO

On 15 September **Lt Jim Morley-Kirk** and four intrepid explorers (ie Ex Certain Strike rear party!) left Salamanca bound for Kristiansund, Norway and two weeks trekking and canoeing. After kit collection and final preparation at Kristiansund on the 16th, the group left, by landrover, to journey north to Hankeliseter, to begin nine days trekking in the highlands. This was the final special expedition of the year, sponsored by BOBC Norway.

The first day's trek to Holmevasshytta proved most arduous as the route crossed a broad ridge between two valleys. The mountains were already snow-covered and the going was slow. As darkness closed in, the group made a testing descent through snow and mist into the second valley. Nightfall and foul weather forced us to stop short of our goal and we pitched tents.

The morning greeted us with rain and high winds. We broke camp by 0900 hrs and moved painfully south towards the mountain hut at Bleskestadmoen. After an unexpectedly hard first day the journey inflicted several ankle injuries and **Sig 'Wolverine' Wiles** lost a front tooth enroute. The hut was a welcome haven—despite the disorderly, though friendly, Norwegian shepherds who shared it with us.

Day 3's route led to the hut at Mosdel. Due to the aggravated injuries, a day's rest was spent here. It proved to be the one good day, weather-wise, during the trek!

Climbing steeply out of the valley we headed south-east for Krossvatnet, the route taking us through a high mountain pass west of Snonuten, at 1,606m. Thankfully, the weather held off until we had cleared it although we never left the snowline.

On day 6 we continued south to the hut at Vassdalstjerm and the country was now an expansive boulder field. As we moved south the snow cover became more patchy but the half-covered rocks made the going treacherous.

Day 7 looked easy! With only an estimated five hours walking to do, **Lt Jim Morley-Kirk** put the group's navigation to the test. All went well and it looked as if we would make it in with dry feet for the first time. Unfortunately the 'bridge' we expected, was no more! The river crossing that followed put paid to any thoughts of dry kit and the memorable, heart-stopping details are recorded in the Hovaln hut log-book.

The next day we headed east, aiming to hit the main road and make our RV with the canoes at OSE the following day. The sheer hillsides and tracts of birch forced us higher as we skirted the Strandefjellet valley. The cloud closed in and the journey across the wide corries was extremely difficult—we finally made camp in the hills, about 5 hrs from Bykle.

On our last days trek we descended into the valley, holding on to the trees to keep our balance. A hitched ride on the back of a construction workers van saved our well-worn and aching feet and we re-discovered the wonders of civilisation in the supermarket at Bykle.

A short bus journey down to OSE took us to the campsite where we met up with our canoes and **Sgt Keith Marriott RAMC,** our BOBC medic and canoe instructor.

For the four days canoeing in the Fjords and around the coast the weather was unprecedented. Sunshine accompanied us as we paddled south. After a few steering problems, the double canoes were mastered—though smiles were not always evident, as **Cfn Scouse 'Are you paddling back there' Moran,** will testify! A slight geographical embarrassment, by **Sgt Marriott,** saw us cross a stretch of water reserved for the final day and planned with a safety boat in support. Fortunately, we coped with the swell and crossed without any problems.

Our journey ended as we paddled up the Fjord back to BOBC itself on 28 September. With just time to return kit and have a quick shower, we left in our transport, mechanical this time, for the port of Kristiansand, enroute back to BAOR.

The expedition was a great success. Early injuries can be attributed mainly to lack of training beforehand. Useful experience was gained by all through tackling the difficult, snow-covered mountains. Memories of the huts, the continuous crossing of streams and 'the river', **Sig Geordie Harrison's** expert porridge, **Pte Glen Suttenwood** and **Sig Seb 'Gryte' Wiles** in HMS Wolverine, together with **Cfn Scouse Moran**'s love of canoes will inevitably linger on. Many thanks go to BOBC Norway for all their assistance in making the expedition possible in the first place.

L To R: Sigs Seb Wiles, Geordie Harrison, Cfn 'Scouse' Moran, Pte Glen Suttenwood

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj P. J. Grey**
2IC Sqn	**Capt A. W. T. McComb**
OC C Tp	**Lt D. P. Hix**
OC K Tp	**Lt A. D. Burgin**
OC J Tp	**Lt P. Vingoe**
OC P Tp	**2Lt P. Bosher**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Halstead**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt F. Cottington**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Evans**
OC R Relay Trunk 0540	**Sig G. Young**

The past couple of months has seen a new look 1 Sqn. Not only have we had a new **YofS 'Scouse' Evans** and **FofS 'Bob' Thomas,** but Jaguar Tp (TN074) have finally arrived from 7 Sig Regt led by **Lt Paul Vingoe.**

It has been a particularly busy period with Battle Camp, Cheetah and Panther Tp adventurous training and last but not least Ex Keystone 1987.

Battle Camp in Vogelsang was an enormous success and at the end of the day there had been a lot learnt, by all concerned, about dodging tanks and crossing mud baths. Although the 1 Sqn team were not the eventual winners, morale never dropped, and they especially enjoyed their trips on the four tonner driven by **Sig 'The Nutter' Toms.**

Cheetah Tp descended upon Chiemsee in Bavaria for their Summer adventurous training. It was an exhausting hectic week full of sailing, canoeing, hill walking, and the boosting of Anglo-American relations. Our special thanks go to **Sgt Dave Till** and **Tomo** for the excellent food.

Panther Tp decided to go to Berchtesgarten also in Bavaria. The highlight of the excursion was white water rafting with the US Army. In freezing cold water speeding along at 10 knots, the brave Troop took to the water for a swimming test. Once this was completed they tackled the rafts. The major burning question at the end of the day was whether the 20ft ledge into a plunge pool or **SSgt Selkirk** was the more dangerous!

Exercise Keystone 1987 came as a welcome relief. The exercise can be best summed up using the following quotes.

'But I didn't think I needed my tool box'. **Cpl Bald** (LAD).

'I'm transferring to the Medical Corps'. **YofS Scouse Evans.**

'Well in that case I'm going to the Educational Corps'. **FofS Thomas.**

'But I like spam fritters'. **LCpl Smith** (Chief 064).

'It would make life so much easier if I brought my girlfriend out here Sir'. **2Lt Paul Bosher.**

'I always fill up in the field via camp'. **Cpl Holmes** (Pod driver).

'The barn door magically shut just before I reversed into it'. **Sig Marshall** (Lineman).

'Is there really an exercise on?' The Regimental Football team.

'I had doughnuts at 044, what can you offer?' The CO.

Finally Jaguar Troop (TN074) arrived officially on 20 November 1987 and was welcomed into the Squadron by means of a parade.

A1 TROOP

As winter began to drawn in, A1 Tp once more turned its attention to exercises and vehicle maintenance. Ex Keystone and Ex Certain Strike brought a nominal commitment to the Troop. **Cpl 'Digger' Barnes** and **Sig Tim Shears** on Ex Keystone had an eventful time after **Digger** had been prised, kicking and screaming, from the warmth and comfort of the stores. Whilst on Ex Certain Strike **Cpl Dave Brundenell** found this especially hard after his strenuous efforts at sleeping in the back of AFV's in Canada and the three weeks obligatory leave that this exhausting activity had entailed.

The Regimental Battlecamp proved to be a happy hunting ground for the Squadron which narrowly beat 3 Sqn to become overall champions; this unfortunately did not help us in the overall Princess Royal Shovel Competition where we finished last. **Cpl 'Porky' George,** however is to be congratulated on his NBC awareness assaulting enemy position fully masked up, in fact, it proved hard to prise his section out of their masks at the end of the day. The platoon as a whole excelled at shooting, where we conclusively proved that Army targets rebound bullets when they strike them, and that the surrounding foliage has a nasty habit of tearing itself to shreds. **Sgt Steve Cherry** enjoyed himself watching the platoon at its physical activity and was inclined to join in until he reminded himself that he was a technician, while **Lt Paul Graham** proved very useful on the target indications stand.

The JNCO's Cadre Course was a great success for A1 Tp with **Sig 'Gordie' Leask** coming out overall winner and **Sig 'Cheesey' Chivers** and **Ian Pope** coming in fifth and sixth respectively. **Sig 'Paddy' McLaughlin** and **Martin Hobbs** also gave good performances. **Sig 'Master' Bakes** is still in the Falklands but the time is drawing nigh when he will get to see his Troop. **Sig Steve Pickering** passed his **Nigel Mansell** Speed Driving Test by embedding his car in an embankment on the way to his B1 Course, he is reported to be well and alive. **LCpl Colin Winship** is preparing himself for civilian life and winding down.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We say welcome to: **Cpls John Rutland, Malcolm Horriden, LCpls Steven Fielding, Cairns** and **Sig P. Paine** and goodbyes to: **Cps Mark Egan, 'Porky' George** and **Sig 'Paddy' O'Malley.**

Congratulations to **Digger** and **Jo Barnes** on the birth of **Helga,** their second daughter.

Lt Paul Graham is handing over A1 Tp to **SSgt Kev Nicholls** and we wish him well in his responsibilities.

A3 TROOP

The coming of October saw the preparation and the deployment for A3 Tp to Ex Keystone which involved most of the Troop in. The exercise went very well, providing Rebro's for the Umpire Net. **LCpls Rob McLaughlin** and **Gaz (Tome) Thompson** did something with a difference while **LCpl Steve Schneider** played with his new SCRA Kit.

The End of Keystone gave way to changes at top of A3, firstly the slot of OC Troop. **Lt Mundy** who leaves us for Shrivenham with **Lt Kinnaird** taking over. Also **SSgt John (don't press gang me) Brooks** moved across to 3 Sqn leaving **Sgt Steve (where are all my men?) Talbot** to take over the ever increasing rent-a-det saga. We wish them all the best for the future.

Finally we would like to congratulate **LCpl Steve Schneider** on his marriage. We all wish them both the very best in the future.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Roger Fairfield** on winning the 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Pace Stick competition.

Also to **Sgt Graham Pollard** on receiving his BEM from HM Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, **Sir Julian Bullard GCMG.**

Sgt Graham Pollard and his family with Sir Julian Bullard after receiving the BEM

EXERCISE HALBERD QUADRANT

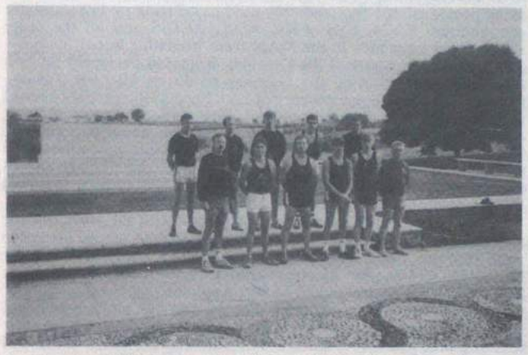
Ex Halberd Quadrant was a Battlefield Study trip undertaken by 12 members of 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. The aim of the exercise was to trace the fortunes of our predecessors in the 78th Battleaxe Division, Southern Italy, during World War 2. The reason for following this Division was that it was the formation from which the current 11 Armd Bde inherited the Battleaxe badge and as such is the unit's ancestor.

After months of planning and preparation, twelve men and two minibuses left Minden in the early hours of 6 September. The journey to the south of Italy took some 27 hrs of almost non-stop driving. However on arrival in Taranto the fantastic weather and clear blue sea made it all seem worthwhile. No sooner had the team arrived in Taranto than **WO2 (YofS) Steve Whytock** was straight into the swing of things and drove his car into the side of a van. However our interpreter **Lt Rob 'The Italian' Salvoni** was able to sort it all out.

After a short period of re-organisation and replenishment the expedition began in earnest. The route taken initially followed the east coast and passed through Bari and Foggia before continuing north to the Sangro River. This was the site of one of the major battles of the campaign and as such a full tour was made of the site. The battlefield itself appeared to have changed very little and it was easy to appreciate the problems faced by the Division during WW2. On this site there is now a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in which the fallen are buried. It is maintained in immaculate order. Everyone was moved as they walked among the plots.

From the Sangro River the team headed inland and up into the Appenine Mountains. The beautiful scenery and weather provided three days of excellent hill walking and took the team across to the west coast. The finishing point for this phase of the trip was the town of Cassino.

The Cook, Lt Rob Salvoni



The team at the Sangro River Cemetry

Cassino was the site of one of the longest and bloodiest battles of the Italian Campaign. For six months the Allies and the Germans fought a running battle in the bombed out debris of the town and amongst the ruins of the monastery. Although the town was rebuilt after the war there are still a number of relics and reminders of the battle. During the stay in Cassino the team visited the cemeteries of all major combatants, British, German and Polish, as well as the battlefield itself. The most fascinating part of the tour around Cassino was undoubtedly the Abbey of Monte Cassino itself. Set high up on the hills overlooking the town, it was completely destroyed in the early stages of the battle. After the war it was rebuilt and is an extremely impressive sight perched high above the town. All members of the party went on a conducted tour and were impressed by what they saw.

BORDER PATROL

While Ex Keystone was underway other members of the Squadron took part in a patrol of the Inner German Border (IGB). This proved to be an interesting and educational trip.

Sgt 'Rusty' Bullock on Border Patrol

WIVES DRIVING DAY

The MT section has also been busy having organised a driving day for the wives club. They managed to get together with a landrover, a four tonner, a Stalwart and an AFV 432 plus drivers (is this a record!) on Minden North training area, to let the wives 'have a go'. All those who took part had a good time especially those who were non drivers! Perhaps some husbands should watch out for the safety of their cars!

The 'Rushtons' in action on the 432

BATTLECAMP

In early October 50 members of the Squadron deployed to a tented camp on Vogelsang Training area to take part in the Squadron's annual Battlecamp. Under the command of **Capt Paul Hudson** and with the assistance (sic) of the SSM and the subalterns, a hectic but interesting programme was devised. This revolved around an intersection competition and included activities that ranged from NBC, First Aid, Command tasks and Assault courses, to Rangework, Throwing Grenades and Molotov cocktails. All the teams put in a maximum effort and the final result was a 'close run thing', with 2 Section commanded by **Cpls Graveson** and Chalmers winning in the end. An enjoyable and worthwhile week.

EXERCISE KEYSTONE

October saw elements of the Squadron deploy to take part in Ex Keystone, some as players, while others acted as umpires and controllers. Despite gloomy weather the exercise proved successful and all participants enjoyed it.

EXERCISE DECI KING

Lt Graham Complin, SSgt Tony Martin APTC, Cpl 'Tez' McBride, LCpl 'Stu' Garrett, Sig 'Trapper' Hinton, 'Mac' McGarvey, 'Taff' Davies and **Cfn 'Andy' Richardson** have recently completed Exercise Deci King which took place in Sardinia. The aim was to locate and develop new climbing areas in Sardinia and also enable personnel to qualify as Top Rope and Abseil Supervisors.

A total of 17 new climbs were 'put up' and three new areas located. As a result of this the Sardinian climbing guide is being re-written. **Lt Complin, Cpl McBride** and **LCpl Garrett** gained their Top Roping and Abseiling Qualification.

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7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

4 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Neil Fisher**
OC Des (30 Nov 87)	**Maj Jo Moreland**
2IC	**Lt Tom Friend**
OC B Tp	**Lt Bert Appleton**
OC C Tp	**Sgt Geordie Deeming**
SQMS	**SSgt Pete Harris**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Dixie Dean**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Pete Whitwood**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Graham Twisse**
Ops Subaltern	**Lt David Kenyon**

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE

by WO2 (YofS) Dean

The Squadron set out for Ex Certain Strike with some trepidation, as it was billed as the biggest exercise since 1945, or so OC 4 Sqn, **Maj Neil Fisher** drummed into us on one of the many briefings that were held before the great invasion by the 3rd US Corps.

Thursday 3 September saw the Squadron lining up and moving out to what might be the last round up.

It was disconcerting to arrive at Herford Ost Autobahn exit to see a Line Rover leaving the autobahn for Herford. Not a bad start; the exercise was only 15 minutes old and already **Sgt 'Geordie' Deeming** was going back to Herford.

Our home for the next three weeks was to be a field near Fallingbostel and very close to the Exercise Control Centre for Exercise Certain Strike. The cows and horses were rather surprised by the uninvited guests and provided the warning to us to watch where we put our feet.

WO1 (FofS) 'Chas' Dowie, in his new beret (clearly borrowed) gripping WO2 (YofS) 'Dixie' Dean to prevent him escaping from 4 Sqn

14 Sqn RCT, finally arrived with the Staff Box Bodies but then went past the Squadron vehicles heading for the sunset, the Corps Recce Officer chased after them and eventually got them back. Then the usual pantomime started. The first Staff vehicle was called forward and placed in its slot. The vehicle was then duly moved six inches to the left, six inches to the right, it was turned round twice and finally ended up where it started. The second one was easy, the Recce Officer having got the hang of it now, this one only moved three inches.

After the ballet performance, much appreciated by the Squadron members, it was the turn of **WO2 (SSM) Graham Twisse** and **SSgt Mick Palmer** to do their bit to show the Recce Officer that they too could perform the same intricate footwork made only slightly more difficult by the addition of generators towed for the Regiment's Corps Lighting Troop.

Their experience showed, and after only about one hour all the vehicles had been placed, moved and placed again, a feat only achieved due to the fact that the OC was not present to show them some of his favourite steps.

The Squadron's usual locations are in warehouses and factories. We now set out to perform an unusual task, putting up cam nets, something we had not done for a long time. After this came the laying of the power cables and with the cam nearing completion where were Corps Lights? No power! No Brew for the Troops, sure makings of trouble. They turned up only a little late and flustered—they had been following **Sgt 'I'm signing off again' Howlands** route card.

Oblivious to this were the Linies who were left with the unenviable task of working out where the trenches would go. This was also a departure from the norm as the digging of trenches in the concrete floors of factories is frowned upon no matter how close Orange Forces are.

The OC arrived and the Linies started to dig the cable trenches, and the Techs and Tele Mechs started to fill them with as many cables as possible. The rains started, the beginning of virtually three weeks of rain, the Linies storm trenches did their job well, comms were tested locally and all seemed well as we waited for news of the outside world. The OC flew into Syscon and decided that the links to the switches serving the Exercise Control should be in as soon as possible. Yeoman **'Dixie' Dean** on his first exercise fresh from the rear Echlons of Shape was at a loss. What's an LDA? 'So sadly it appeared was **Sgt Mick McCue** who had stood in as YofS until his arrival'. It was not helped by **Lt Bert Appleton** on his first exercise in a Major Access Node after being posted from 3 Sqn and only used to bringing up links and not communities, CN24, SPS, PSN, ADX, ACCIS and all the other systems that keep men in the MAN from becoming bored.

All was going well and the Germans from 840 Fernmeld Bn had turned up thus allowing the Gateway to do its job. **Sgt Tenney**, showing that the Germans were not here for a hard exercise, opened the back door and started to unload. First came the boxes of food, enough to feed him and his three man crew for about two months. This was followed by the Barbecue and coals, this was, after all, a tactical exercise. The lot was topped off with 48 cans of Coke and 48 cans of other assorted soft drinks and an odd beer or two. It ruined his day to hear that we were fully tactical.

On the Monday the exercise started proper with the arrival of the staff. All was going well and the Squadron had settled down to wait for the usual visitors to Corps HQ. When Commander NORTHAG, **Gen Sir Martin Farndale** visited, **Sgt Tennie** was informed by **Sgt Anderson** and **Lt Bert Appleton** that the Commander wished to speak to him personally. For the next half an hour he could be seen rushing around cleaning his vehicle and trying to get his crew to bring him some boot polish. The Commander duly visited and stopped to talk to **Sgt Tennie** and he responded by answering questions that the Commander had not asked. It was hard to contain the laughter but after all he took it in good spirit. He now refuses to speak to any of us ever again. The idyllic quiet was only occasionally shattered by the sound of **YofS Dixie Dean** making sporadic checks of the IVSN telephone system. It appeared that he could not get out of his system that 4 Sqn did not run NATO Comms no matter how much he was told to the contrary. (Or however much 4 Sqn tried). The system however worked and the boots ordered from SHAPE and the Parka from Norway should be arriving soon. Not to be left out the SSM remembered a long lost friend at the NATO school in Latina, Italy also luckily on the IVSN network, all these operational calls went well but we are still not sure what **Graham** ordered from Italy or whether the invitation for a holiday was extended.

WO1 (FofS) Dowie wandered around about the area with a lost look on his face and was trying to work out why he was still with 4 Sqn after being posted to PWSST. Nobody could help as they too had not been told either, that being locked away securely with the OC and he was not telling anybody.

Of the numerous jollies the Squadron managed the best one was by **LCpl John Martain**. The German equipment on loan to the Squadron had been down and all his attempts to repair it were in vain. It was decided to send the equipment and **LCpl Martain** away to the owners to have it repaired. This was to be done by helicopter to save time. All was prepared, the helicopter arrived and **John** and the equipment flew off into the sunset. The Germans went to the pick up point and the helicopter also arrived. The only problem was that the two pick up points were not the same. The next we heard was a phone call from **John** to inform us that he was in Minden and would be staying the night to save the two hour flight back to the location and would try again the next day.

The YofS started again to organise the pick up. This was all terribly difficult due to the fact that the Germans at the distant end did not have a map of their local area. They insisted on giving directions by road number and there were mild consternation as to whether a helicopter would be allowed to fly that low.

Finally after more phone calls the two managed to meet and the equipment was swapped. All that was left was to get **John** and the equipment back. Finally they arrived back and a journey that should have taken 8 hours had lasted 28 and **LCpl John Martain** became almost the envy of most.

That was not the end of the saga. The equipment was installed and was more faulty than the bit it replaced. It was later replaced by road, a round trip of seven hours. There is a lesson in all this somewhere.

The exercise continued in this rather slow vein and was only occasionally disturbed by visits of various senior Officers to the Corps Response Cell, these included a visit on 22 September 1987 by **Maj Gen Yeoman**. After visiting the Staff Officers at Corps HQ the General then visited the Squadron and during this time he was able to talk to the various members.

Throughout the exercise many NATO Officers sang the praises of the Ptarmigan system and the exercise turned out to be, if not one of the most exciting exercises the Squadron has been involved in, certainly one of the best in terms of advertising the Ptarmigan system to other NATO nations.

The Squadron returned to barracks on 24 September, allowing the field and cows to return to their normal peaceful way of life.

A DOWN-UNDER VIEW OF BAOR

by Capt Mike Atkinson RA Signals attached to 1 Sqn, 7 Sig Regt

I drew my hand across my chin, and wearily opened one eye. Yeow—we're on the wrong side of the road! Of course—I'm in Germany, and my white-knuckled grip on the dashboard of the landrover relaxed.

Only a day or two had passed since the Ops Officer, **Maj Graham Leach** had enthusiastically briefed me and the other members of No 12 TEM course on our attachment to 7 Sig Regt. After the essential duty-free runs to the NAAFI and the coffee and cakes in Herford, I found myself in 1 Sqn.

Naturally, our deployment coincided with torrential rainfall. 'So much for DAMCON' someone remarked. 'What's DAMCON?' I naively enquired. The reply was a half hour lecture on the life expectancy of chickens and how many eggs per annum each can be expected to lay.

So, on to the road; sorry, autobahn. Driving on the autobahn in convoy on a Saturday morning is like being an extra in a 'Mad Max' movie! Irate motorists risking life, limb and Mercedes to get past us!

After two hours, we turned into the 'bush'. This was one of many Australian terms I had to educate the lads of 1 Sqn in (eg 'digger'—squaddie, 'barbie'—barbeque, and 'oxygen thief'—Troop wally!) However, everyone got their revenge with Ptarmigan TLAs and nowhere was I bombarded more than in the OSC. Here I quickly mastered how **Maj Miles Stockdale, SSgt (YofS) 'Chippy' Wood** and **SSgt Mick Strefford** took their tea, but it was on my visit to TNO23 with **SSgt (FofS) Joe Meggit** at 0430 hrs that I learnt three important lessons. Diagnostic faults are difficult to diagnose, Sleep was far more interesting than any switch fault, and this was not going to be a swan!

However, the system was easy to pick up. SEP (Someone else's problem) lumbered OSC's (Old Soldiers' Club) with problems, and these OSCs did the forward (forecasting without any real data) planning which unsuspecting Node Commanders like **Lt Pat Evans, Lt Mark Finneran** and **SSgt Henry Hung** had to implement.

Having single handed kept Ptarmigan running for days I returned to the admin area to find a remarkable sub-culture, especially at TN022. There was **LCpl Al Gregory**, a man who believed the Army should introduce a new martial status: Cat 7—'single but in high demand'. **Cpl Wilkinson** was the head of the Yorkshire night school for card players. **Sig Galloway** was head of the late night revellers, and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Rudd** was head of whatever he felt like heading at the time!

A very stylish dinner night in the field was finished off by a round of 'trivial Pursuits' compered by **Cpl Mann**. Typical questions were: SSM—'How many players on a rugby team?' and: Opposition—'How many runs did K (unpronouncable) Singh score in the 1970 drawn final of the New Delhi seventh Division Cricket?' Rumour has it that **Cpl Mann** doesn't appear on the Christmas Duty roster, and, oh yes, the SSM's team won the beer!

My thanks to all the members of 1 Sqn whose professionalism and cheerful patience left a lasting impression.

INITIATIVE PUT TO THE TEST

Twenty-six soldiers from 1 Sqn, 7 Sig Regt, recently found themselves sent out from camp with DM 25 and a list of obscure tasks which they had to complete (and be able to prove) with as much flair, initiative and imagination as possible. Such were the aims of Ex Long Stretch.

Initial hopes of reaching America and Japan were scuppered, but most of the teams of three, by smooth talking and charm, were donated flights and ferry tickets to England.

When they reached their chosen locations, they wheeled and dealt themselves into TV stations, radio studios, football commentary boxes, changing rooms and even onto the stage at the Palladium. Stage and screen celebrities like Jimmy Tarbuck and Ian St John were very understanding, as were the local police forces, shops and hotels who took the lads' plight in excellent spirit.

Young signalmen and JNCO's learnt a great deal about their own drive and initiative, and the Squadron is awaiting 30 minute presentations from each of the teams before the award of the prizes.

EXERCISE MACKENZIE QUADRANT

The expedition members were: **Capt Johnson, Lt Bewsher, Sgt Dubique, Cpls Robson, Henry, Holgan, Workman, LCpl 'Daz' Angel** and **Sig Counter**.

In August 10 soldiers of the Regiment set out to walk the Mackenzie Trail — a 250km trek through the heart of British Columbia, Canada. Following in the footsteps of Alexander Mackenzie (who in 1793 had proved the first route from the Eastern Seabord to the Pacific), the expedition crossed the wildest parts of Northern Canada. It was a magnificent feat and fitting climax after the months of pre-exercise training.

The trail lies along the Blackwater River and passes through the Rainbow Mountains where, even in August, the temperatures drop well below freezing. Each day the team completed a minimum of 20km through the dense forest and along the wagon trails of the pioneer settlers. During the expedition much of Canada's unique wildlife was spotted, including Black Bears, Beavers, Wolves, Deer and Pinemartins.

Whilst one or two people suffered from blisters the expedition went very smoothly and proved a total success thanks to **Capt Johnson** and **Lt Bewsher**.

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VISIT OF MAJ GEN B. R. HARRIS—COMMANDING GENERAL US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS
by Maj M. M. Furguson US Army Signal Corps

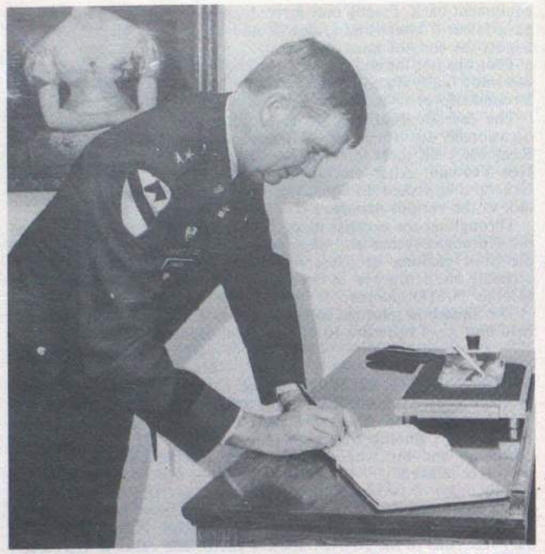
The Commanding General of the US Army Sig Corps, **Maj Gen B. R. Harris**, visited the Trade Training School (TTS) on 11 and 12 November. His visit was part of a two week itinerary which took him to a number of military and civilian organisations in Europe. The aim of his visit was to see Signals soldiers being trained, communications equipments being fielded and Signal units at work.

His visit enabled him to see the innovative training techniques used in the instructional wings in TTS. With the new Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE) system due to come into service with the US Army in February at Fort Hood in Texas the General was particularly interested in computer based training techniques used in Ptarmigan wing. In Operating Wing he saw the microprocessor-based telegraph trainer.

The General was not only able to see modern, complex technology being used to train soldiers efficiently but was also able to see different approaches to training. The Fixed Mastery Variable Time (FMVT) approach to Data Telegraphist training was demonstrated to be an effective Training method in a school environment and one which was well-suited to distance training.

During his visit the General saw several innovative training techniques and equipments. He was clearly impressed with the way our tradesmen are trained. As he left he remarked, 'I envy the training environment here at Catterick'.

Mr Eddie Bell explains the workings of FMVT to Maj Gen Harris the CO, Col Webster looks on



Maj Gen Harris signs the visitors book on his arrival in TTS

The General discusses 'Trend Teleprinter training with Col Webster and Lt Col Finney, Maj Webb and Sig Paterson listen with interest

Mr John Ring demonstrates the telegraph trainer to the General. Obviously Lt Cols Waumsley, Finney and Col Webster can still be impressed by it

VISIT OF COMMANDER TRAINING GROUP—BRIG R. F. MAYNARD MBE

On 2 September **Brig R. F. Maynard** visited 8 Sig Regt specifically to meet members of the cadre. He visited, HQ, 1, 2 and 3 Sqns. Whilst with HQ Sqn the Brigadier saw some of Schemes Tp Ptarmigan installations and met their crews.

Brig Maynard visited Vimy A restaurant and met ACC staff.

As part of his visit to the Regiment, **Brig Maynard** met the SNCOs of 2 Sqn for a relaxed informal discussion on the day to day running of the Squadron. The meeting was held in the WRAC accommodation (unfamiliar ground to us all). **Brig Maynard** took a keen interest in all topics which ranged from Military Training to leisure activities.

(From L to R): Sgt 'Sammy' Cook, SSgt Trev Smith, OC 2 Sqn, Maj Freebairn WRAC trying to impress upon the Brigadier that they work very long hours. The Brigadier looks suitably impressed

Brig Maynard talking to WO1 (RCWO) Glover and SSgt Bowker ACC in Vimy A Restaurant on the implications of the new CATPAC system and how it fits into the organisation of 8 Sig Regt. The look of amazement says it all as SSgt Bowker tells the Brigadier he can now handle computers as well as keeping 8 Sig Regt well fed

CORPS MOBILE DISPLAY TEAM 'QUICKSILVER'

OC	**Capt Roger Courtney MBE**
Team SSgt	**SSgt Mick Knights**

MOBILE DISPLAY TEAM
Sgt Bill Simpson
Cpl Phil Christie
LCpl Dave Bewley
LCpl Geoff Buxton
Sig Geordie Charlton
WLCpl Lyn Mathews (28SR)
WPte Dawn Phillips (16SR)

REGIMENTAL INFORMATION TEAM 1
Sgt Ron O'Reilly
LCpl Paul Lomas
Sig 'Dinger' Bell
Sig Stu Rigby

REGIMENTAL INFORMATION TEAM 2
Sgt 'Boom' Moore
LCpl Bob Kirby
Sig Joe Morgan (AA Coll) Harrogate)
Sig Paul Cox

The 1987 summer show season has now come to a successful conclusion. The MDT travelled countrywide, attending major civilian and military shows with the RIT's looking after local events and ACF/CCF's in the North East of England and Scotland.

All three teams worked long hours, clocked up thousands of miles and despite the lack of 'time off' had an enjoyable and most rewarding season.

Quicksilver has now returned to the 'normality' of Catterick and the winter months with a spot of leave, trade and military courses for some, UEI for all and much needed refurbishment and repairs of equipment for the 1988 Season. All this and school tours and winter presentations to cope with as well.

A number of stalwarts have now left the team and we wish them all the best in their new jobs: **Cpl Phil Christie** (after five years, three with the White Helmets) to 22 Sig Regt. **LCpls Bob Kirby, Paul Lomas** and **Sig Paul Cox** to civvy street and our attached personnel, **WLCpl Lyn Mathews, WPte Dawn Phillips** and **Sig Joe Morgan** back to their parent units. Thanks for all your hard work.

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9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO

The first two weeks of September saw all the Royal Signals units in Cyprus preparing for 'the visit', however, not too many people knew who the visitor was to be, that was unless they read the Court and Social column in the Daily Telegraph. All became clear on 17 September when two Wessex helicopters flew into 9 Sig Regt (Radio) at 0915 hrs and signalled the start of the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, for **HRH** to meet the Seniors and their wives.

Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL (Master of Signals) and **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** (Signal Officer-in-Chief) and the Regimental Secretary **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon** met the Colonel-in-Chief on her arrival in the Regiment.

First on the itinerary was the Ayios Nikolaos Kindergarten and a chance to meet some of the younger children and unveil a plaque to commemorate her visit. Mothers with older children met the Princess as she left the Kindergarten and after chatting to some of them **HRH** was presented with a posy of flowers by **Natalie Dixon**.

At the swimming pool there was a chance for some of the Regiment's families to meet **HRH** and enjoy a children's swimming gala and later a concert by the Corps Band. The sun and unseasonally high temperatures were beginning to make life a little uncomfortable, so a visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess provided a welcome break from the outdoors; it also provided the opportunity for **The Princess Royal** to meet the Seniors and their wives.

The Princess Royal showed great interest in everything and especially in the penultimate part of the visit which involved a brief on the Regiment's role and the opportunity to meet some of the service men and women at work.

THE ORIGINAL MARATHON

'Five days in Athens' was the offer made by the RSM. The catch was that a 26 mile run was included in the deal. Sixteen members of the Regiment, including the RSM accepted, and on 8 October they flew to Athens. The 26 mile run was in fact the Sixteenth Athens International Marathon.

The cost of sending such a large group was initially a drawback. However, all the runners contributed and many generous sponsorships were gratefully accepted, which solved the problems.

The run followed the original route from Marathon to Athens with a short detour around the Tomb of Marathon, to make up the officially recognised Marathon distance. The route is hard, the first 16km virtually all uphill and the last 12km run down the centre of a six-lane road which was nose to tail with Athens motorists trying to escape the smog.

Times were slow. The best recorded time is 2.26, but the team did well, 15 of the team finished, all within the cut off time. First home was **Cpl Williams** of 2 Sqn.

Money was raised by the runners for various charities, details of which are still to be finalised. However, all would agree that a 26 mile run and raising money for charity was not a bad swop for five days in Athens.

HRH The Princess Royal meets Cpl John Bailey

1 SQUADRON

SHQ PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paul Robertshaw**
Admin Offr	**Lt John O'Rourke**
SSM	**WO2 Dick Whittingham**
SQMS	**SSgt 'Chas' Ward**
Sqn Clerk	**Mrs Gwyneth Campbell**

I arrived in Cyprus for the first time on 20 August to take up the post of Admin Officer 1 Sqn. I had been warned that even by Cyprus standards it was going to be hot when I arrived, this didn't bother me as I'd just spent the last two years in Catterick where the temperature once reached 66°!

On arrival the 'boss' briefed me that the Squadron was 259 strong, what he omitted to tell me was the fact that I would rarely see a soldier. They were either shift workers or hid themselves away in their department; obviously avoiding the sun!

That left just one 'indian' the Q.

Being 'new' I had fourth call on his services so the movement of equipment into what is jokingly called my 'office' was done by yours truly! I am now laid up with the back problem again!

After taking over as Families Officer, PRI Officer and Civil Labour Officer, I was then tasked to produce these *Wire* notes. Having done the 'course' I decided to telephone the heads of departments and get them to do it.

OC TM Tp, **Capt Brian Pettifer**, could not be found. His FofS, **WO2 Phil Martin**, a professional at protecting his OC, informed me that as a 'Commodore' of the Water Sports Club, **Brian** had been rushed away on an urgent admin problem. This was 1000 hrs on a beautiful sunny morning, the wind unusually fresh for the time of day, and **Brian** being a very keen board sailor, I believed the FofS. He then produced TM Troops *Wire* notes.

TM TROOP

The past few months have, to say the least, been hot ones. With temperatures up to and over 100°, only the air conditioning and the soft drinks fridge kept the Troop on its feet. Strenuous PT was called to a halt for a few weeks, which is a most unusual step. Most of the Troop went into 'Tanning Mode' and adopted Mediterranean bronze except a few pale faces whose skin refused to adopt more than a pink tinge.

Sport always plays a big part in Troop life and naturally plenty of success was gained in that field with a large percentage of the Troop developing webbed hands and feet due to the amount of time spent in the swimming pool training for various competitions. The most memorable of these was, without doubt, the Army Minor Units Water Polo final in which the Troop provided 80 per cent of the Squadron team. This very close fought match went our way by a goal scored in the closing seconds. The whole team gave their all to achieve this fine victory but the stars of the day were **Cpl 'Jenx' Jenkins** for his ballistic shots, and **FofS 'Tim' Prince** for his brickwall impression in the goal.

Congratulations go to **Sgt 'Jamie' Jamieson** on his well deserved promotion to Staff Sergeant, unfortunately there isn't a slot for him to drop into here and he is therefore posted away to 4 Div (it was a case of, do you want the good news or the bad news first?).

Tg Wksp has now got a real touch of glamour about it with no less than seven WRAC Technicians on strength, although 'strength' may not be quite the right way to put it!

Four of our Corporals decided that it's a 'pads' Army and talked some lovely ladies into marriage. We therefore extend a welcome to **Annettee Jenkins, Debbie Redman, Tracey Taylor** and **Janis Lee**. Success on the promotion front turned up for **Sgts Robinson** and **Paul King** RAOC who conned their respective boards and are now awaiting the big day.

Two more of the Troop wives are worth mentioning as a result of their sporting achievements. **Sgt 'Doc' Savage**'s wife, **Bev**, almost won the Dhekelia one mile swim and proved herself to be a good all-rounder by winning the 9 Sig Regt ladies cross country. **Sgt 'Steve' Shaw** brought his wife **Joy**, a former PTI, across on holiday from her university course in the UK, and while she was here she casually took the All Island Army ladies tennis individual title and the mixed doubles as well!

Social activities are running well, with regular functions for both the Troop and for the wives on their own, the combination of very reasonable prices and good venues is exploited to the full. This could lead to a major charitable event in the form of a sponsored slim as belts are constantly being loosened and a few kg could easily be spared between us.

It has been a long, hot summer and we now look forward to a cooling down in temperature only. The hectic social life is not about to calm down, far from it, we are due to start winding ourselves up for Christmas.

The work is sometimes tough, but the social life can be much tougher!

Meanwhile back at Squadron office . . .

Comms Tp OC, **Capt Jim Doherty**, proved just as difficult to locate, he was eventually tracked down at the 'Clay Pigeon Club', again on urgent admin business. The task was passed on to **SSgt Sid Baker** who provided the following notes:-

COMMS TROOP—A SHIFT

Well the Shift has been working hard over the past few months, trying to get a decent suntan. We organised an inter-shift Cricket Competition which went well, although we didn't find any budding Ian Bothams, everyone seemed to have a good laugh. The final is between 'A' and 'B' shifts which should prove to be a good game as on paper both teams seem to be equal.

We have had a few shift gatherings, the main one being an afternoon Clay Pigeon Shoot which was supervised with a keen eye by OC Comms. He was a bit taken aback when most competitors hit all the clays, and especially **Pte Sandy Sockett** who did a little dance after each shot. This was followed by a barbecue at **Sgt 'Taff' Rumble**'s home. While **LCpl Mark Tweats** toiled over the cooking, everyone enjoyed some refreshments with their meal.

FAREWELLS

We say goodbye to **LCpl Chris Adams** who has gained his freedom; he is off to 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, so watch out '39'. Also, bye to **Cpl Jules Williams** and **Sig Oz Hewson. Oz** is promoted to Lance Corporal on posting.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Williams** and **LCpl Dyer** on their promotion to Corporal.

COURSES

WLCpl Graham left us to go on her B1 Course at Catterick, so we hope she will do well; she will be back soon if only to thaw out.

WELL DONES

Ptes Sarah Ledamun and **Louise Self** starred in the 1 Sqn Swimming Team and went on to represent the Army. **Pte Pamela Shaw** came second (first really because first place went to a civilian) in the Ladies entry to the Regimental X Country. **Cpl 'Swanny' Coomber** and **Sig 'Monty' Montgomery** pulled in the Squadron Tug-o-War. **LCpls Simon Jarnell, Mandy Tucker, Leslie Anne Bryan** and **Pte Louise Self** were all members of the Comms Tp Silver Service Waiting Team. **LCpl Paul Elgenias**' Cowboy Night at the Nicosia Hilton Hotel went swimmingly. **LCpl Jane Dennison, Pte Shaw, Cpl Blake** and **Sig Blyth** are off to Athens to run the real Marathon shortly . . . more of this later.

Meanwhile back at Squadron office . . .

I then rang the Training Officer, **Lt John Aspinall** and found someone else at work 'we're both here now' '*Wire* notes **John**' I asked. 'I've been waiting for you to phone, I've got this superb photo of me at the inter-services tug-o-war championships. I'll bring it round'.

But they did organise the children's summer activities!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES—AYIOS NIKILAOS

During the summer the children of the Regiment, Civ Wing and 33 SU RAF between the ages of seven and 15 have been enjoying this year's activities programme.

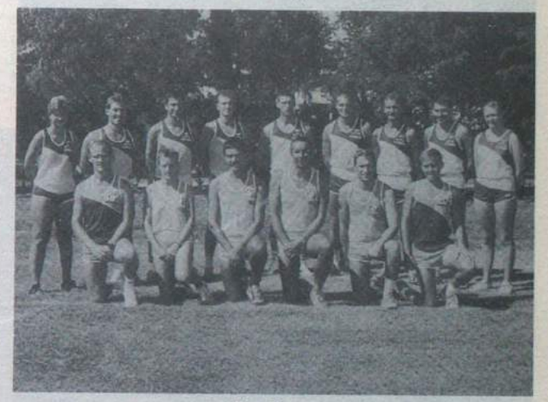
The task of co-ordinating the activities fell to Training Wing for which they employed the services of the industrious **Mr Colm O'Kelly**. Special thanks must be extended to **Sgt Bob Dunleavy**, for all his out of hours work. **LCpl Kilford** for typing, **Lt John Aspinall** for help and support, **2Lt Ben Alexander, Lt Neil Holden** and the rest of Training Wing, the Gym staff and all the individuals who gave up their time, worked hard and showed dedication and patience beyond the call of duty.

The recreation provided for the children, included archery, shooting, golf, bus trips and visits to cinema 'greats' such as 'Basil the Great Mouse Detective', these were greatly enjoyed by everyone. Unfortunately for the children, the end of these activities heralded the start of the new school year.

The Squadron has had a successful summer on the sports scene. We are the Army minor units Water Polo Champions, the inter-services catchweight Tug-o-War champions and the all Island Triathlon champions. We were also successful in the inter Squadron Cross Country and Athletics competitions as well as winning various inter Troop competitions.

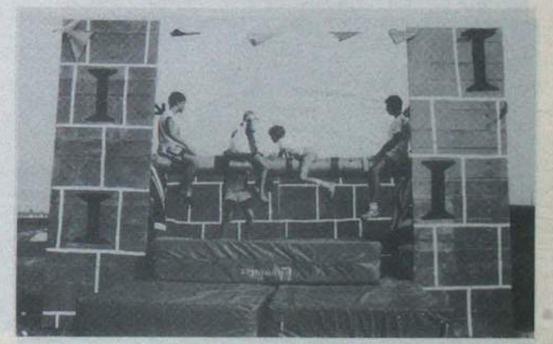
We also held on to the 'Dhekelia Dash' Trophy for the sixth year in succession.

Coach Lt J. Aspinall, holding the winners trophy and looking on as Sgt 'Bunny' Hutchinson and WO2 (SSM) 'Dick' Whittingham receive their winners medals from Brig A. D. Myrtle, Comd Land Forces Cyprus



The Team

LCpl Leigh, Sgt Shannon, Lt Whiteley, Sig Blythe, Cpl Williams, Sgt Ley, Cpl (now Sgt) Barnes, Sgt Swales and Pte Shaw SSgt Harley, LCpl Dennison, Sgt Bailey, WO1 (RSM) Mold, Cpl Blake, Mr Armitage (absent) and Flt Lt Kaye



The Training Wing Stand: The Jousting Pole

WIVES CLUB MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The middle of September saw the annual Wives Club Military Skills night in Ayios Nikolaos. Again, it was the 'only seen once a year' sight of women marching (if you can call it that) around camp giving a decidedly dodgy eyes left to the Commanding Officer.

At 1900 hrs precisely the squad assembled and, once gathered into Groups and Troops NCOs appointed, it was on to the evening's work. Never before had so many interpretations of how to wear combat kit been seen—berets worn at an angle more suited to Oxford Street than the parade square—not to mention that lingering scent of Chanel No 5 on hubby's uniform!

Under the watchful eye of the CO, RSM and the directing staff (many surely only turning up to see how their wives would get on) the Wives Army started moving round the stands.

Among the tasks tackled was driving a ferret scout car down a marked course and judging by some of the times recorded no comments of 'lady drivers' were deserved.

Next was an explosion in the cookhouse—including the Fire Officer wandering around in 'shock' (though difficult to distinguish that behaviour from his normal pattern of behaviour) trying to light up a cigarette immediately after the first bang and several 'casualties' deserving scholarships to RADA.

The Winning Team

Ready to Tackle the Gas Chamber

The wives of Ay Nik would like to thank all who gave up an evening to organise the competition turning them into 'mean green fighting machines'. They are now in training ready for 1988.

The men would like to acknowledge the wives courage in undergoing such rigorous training under the critical eyes of the professionals.

AYIOS NIKOLAOS CHARITY FETE

September in Ayios Nikolaos once again saw a flurry of activity to get ready for the annual Fete. In common with previous years it was another attempt to part people from their money in as many different ways as possible; all in a good cause though.

The CO's wife, **Mrs Jenny Mann**, opened the fete and the afternoon's events started with the Corps Band marching into the arena. Close on their heels came round one of the 'Superstars Competition' four teams (1, 2 and 3 Sqn 9 Sig Regt and one team from 33 SU RAF) competing over six events culminating in 'Shipwrecked Superstars'—rescuing a 'damsel in distress'. The competition was won by 2 Sqn.

Again the Regiment tried to get its name in the record books—this year's event concentrating on eating jelly and ice cream. Once the rules had been established reference-no melted jelly—competitors began. Some impressive times were recorded—mostly by the kids who obviously have more practice at consuming jelly and ice cream at great speed. Someone found out that trying to consume ice cream through nose and mouth simultaneously is not a good idea!

The kids held the arena for a short period with the annual fancy dress competition—another chance to see how imaginative Mum can be when thinking up outfits. All kinds of outfits were seen from video pirates to a Christmas tree (a bit out of season).

Outside the arena there was plenty going on. Most popular was the jousting pole—a chance to bash the living daylights out of your best friend and pay to do it. Also popular was the ducking stool—a guaranteed hit every time especially if it's the Adjutant on the stool! On a hot afternoon the victims didn't seem to mind too much that they were getting soaked every 30 seconds.

All in all a very successful afternoon—supported by a large crowd and a generous sum of over £2,000 being raised.

Telecommunications Engineers

Thameswey — One of the fastest growing operating Districts within British Telecom, is looking for Telecommunications Engineers for vacancies occurring over the next three months in Reading, Slough, Maidenhead, Bracknell, Aldershot and Guildford.

We are looking for people who, ideally, have electronic/electrical experience or who have an academic background, preferably in maths and science subjects. There are also vacancies for people without qualifications who can demonstrate a practical aptitude. You must be at least 18 years of age, in good health and hold a current driving licence.

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The Engineering Recruitment Manager
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49 Friar Street
Reading RG1 1BA

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11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Barney Hill**
AO	**WO1 Ken Clark**
SSM	**WO2 Trev Mortlock**
SQMS	**SSgt Al Jeannette**
Clerk	**Mrs Judith Rooney**

This has been a busy period for the Squadron, in particular the training of REME recruits for the first time in the Regiment's history. Fifty-five REME and 24 R Sigs recruits combined to form intake 8703. The Squadron welcome **Sgt Graham Wilde** from the REME Depot Arborfield to act as the liaison between the two Corps. Another first in the Squadron's history was having two Troops running concurrently. Inter Troop competitions were fiercely contested to decide who was to stand right of line of the Pass Off Parade, and it took until the final competition on the penultimate day of training to split the two Troops. 5 Troop ran out worthy winners and our congratulations go to **Lt Paul Hodgkiss** and the permanent staff of 5 Troop.

The Regiment welcomed **Brig R. F. Maynard MBE** as the Reviewing Officer for the Pass Off Parade on 9 October 1987, which was watched by over 400 parents, family and friends, who travelled from the far corners of the United Kingdom for the occasion.

1 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt Jim Dodds BEM**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Keith Fisher**
Tp Cpls	**Cpls Chris Carling**
	Rob Horne
	Andy Strudwick

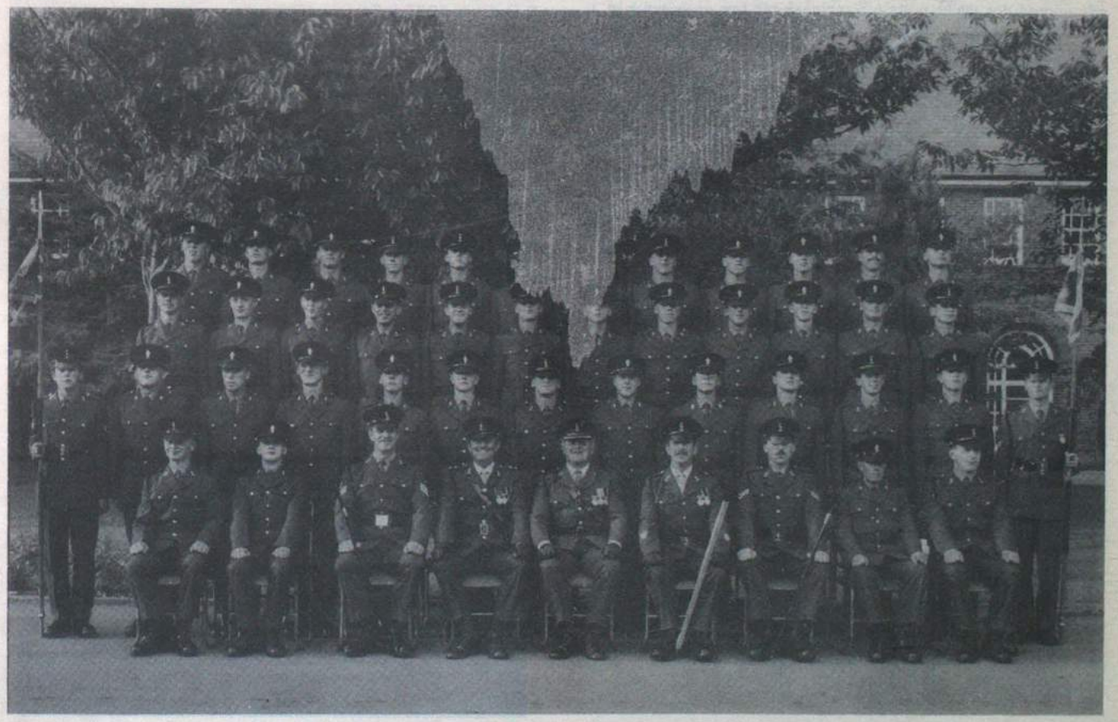
Recruit course 8703 was unique in that it contained two badges-Royal Signals and Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers.

The two combined together helping to foster good inter-Corps relations.

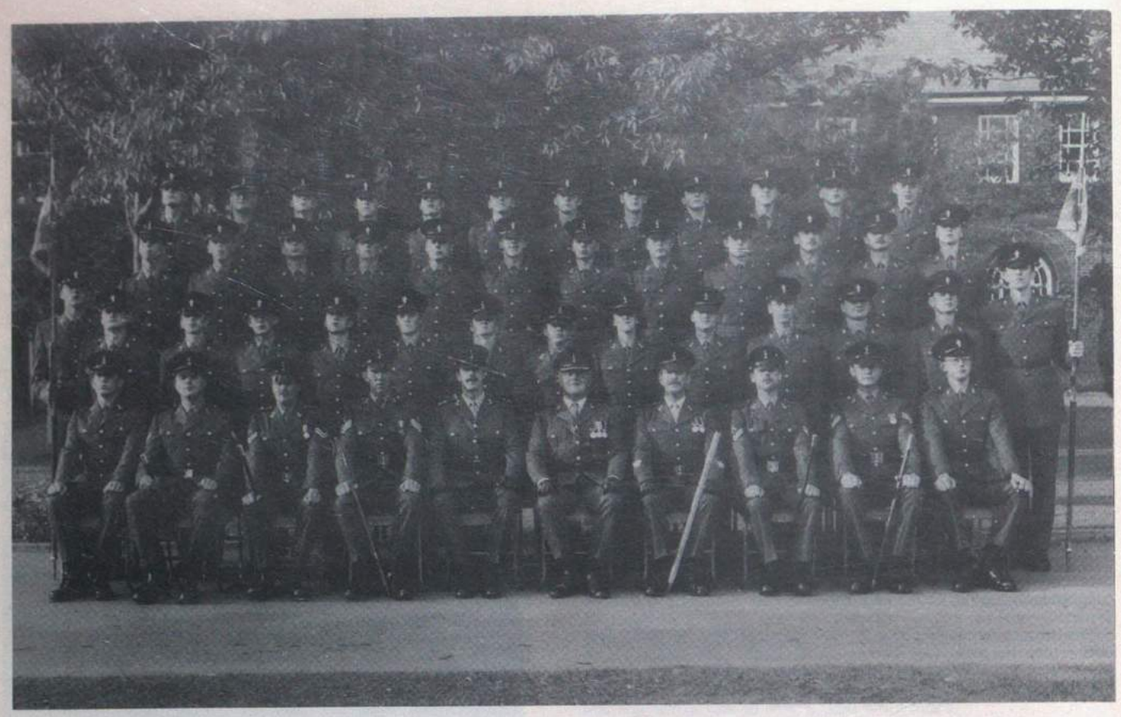
During the nine weeks of military training the Troop blended together well finding time to clean OAP gardens in Richmond and organise a sponsored run, which raised £1,500 for the Childrens Ward of The Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle.

The contest for best recruit was a hard fought one with a number of soldiers in contention:-

Best Recruit	**Sig 'GI Joe' Ord**
Best Shot	**Cfn 'Mad' Caddy**
Most Improved	**Sig 'Stormtrooper' Binden**



Recruit Course 8703 9 August-9 October 1987 1 Troop



Recruit Course 8703 9 August-9 October 1987 5 Troop

RECRUIT COURSE 8703
5 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Paul Hodgkiss**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt 'Chippy' Monk**
Tp Cpls	**Cpls 'Swanny' Swan**
	Terry Dullaghan
	'Paddy' Verdon
	Ken Snell

With the welcoming challenge of breaking new ground and the Troop heavily biased towards REME personnel, we were once again into another nine weeks training cycle.

Not only were there to be section competitions, but on this course the added incentive of inter Troop competition.

By the sixth week the Troop was working well together and building the motivation for the forthcoming challenge. With pride at stake and a few side bets thrown in for good measure the competitions were under way.

Honours were even up to the final competition with 5 Troop winning the arduous log race and the Assault course and 1 Troop winning the cross country and the orienteering. On Thursday 8 October with the wind howling across the square, the six sections went through their paces in the drill competition under the eagle eye of **Capt Brian Smith**. After the scores were totalled 5 Troop was declared the winning Troop by the narrowest of margins and our commiserations went to 1 Troop after a long and hard fought battle.

The weather held for the following day as **Brig R. F. Maynard MBE** reviewed the Pass Off and presented the prizes in front of 400 guests.

Prizes were presented to:-

Best Recruit	**Cfn 'Smithy' Smith**
Best Shot	**Cfn 'Scouse' McCloughlin**
Best Endeavour	**Cfn 'Screaming Skull' Thomas**

3 SQUADRON
KOHIMA TROOP
PERSONALITIES

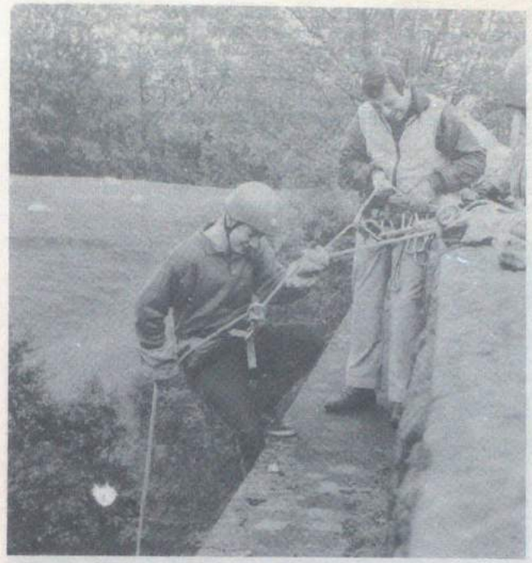
OC	**Lt Bob Parry-Jones**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Tom Benson**
Tp Cpls	**Cpls Dave King**
	Tony Gaston
	Dave Smith

WHERNSIDE—EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Another sunny week was enjoyed by all at the Regiment's adventure training centre in Dent. Harder climbs and bigger caves were the order of the day and as a special treat a little abseil. **JSig 'I am leaning back' Waite** did manage to descend twice and was even seen to open his eyes at one point, but this may only have been a rumour!

Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer, the CO, visited the lads for a day and went orienteering. It appeared to be an odd coincidence that he should elect to run with the Regimental Cross-Country champion, but as **Sgt 'Nothing to do with me, Sir' Benson** explained later, it was just 'the luck of the draw'.

Kohima Troop—Winners Inter Squadron Cross Country



JSig Garry Waite to Sgt 'Tommy' Burns— 'I've looked Sergeant; can I come back up now?'

Throughout the course **Sgt Benson** himself was shadowed by **JSig 'Clint' Broadwell** and **'Man with no name' Gibbons** who stayed on the high ground all day, descending only for check points. They also descended to come in one and a half minutes ahead of **Sgt Benson** and his team.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Kohima headed for Hamsterley Forest for two days of command tasks and leadership instruction. Early November in North Yorkshire is bleak at the best of times but when your group gets lost by 3km it appears like a different planet as many found out. Some new tasks and some even newer solutions were used and as discovered later . . . it helps if you listen to the briefing. Still . . . it's all good clean fun.

BATTLE CAMP

At last the final exercise arrived and with it yet more rain and wind. During the five days all skills were put to the test and consequently the enemy died many gruesome deaths. The word endex will now be emblazoned on more young minds and the victorious faces of the 'Gandalians' were definitely seen to smile as they trudged back to camp.

KOHIMA TROOP
PARENTS DAY

On 19 November the Troop put on an open day for the parents and potential members of the next Troop and had now gone full circle from their own first visit. It was an interesting insight for them into what they were like six months ago. They all enjoyed showing off their new skills and telling 'war stories' to the new intake. In all it was a day enjoyed by both new and old and one that put a final stamp on the end of training.

SOME YOU WIN—SOME YOU LOSE

The final moment is the Pass Off in a few days time. We started with 56 and have finished with 38 all of whom can be proud of the achievement. There have been two notable successes, the first of whom is **George Sutherland** who attained the rank of Junior Sergeant and **JSig Gary Fryer** who has been selected to play for the Army Youth Football Team. Finally a mention to those who will win prizes on Pass Off Day:-

Best Junior Recruit	**JSgt Sutherland**
Best Shot	**JLCpl Madgwick**
Champion Section	
Kohima Tp 3 Section	**Cpl King**
Military Calculations	**JSig Gibson**
Orientation for Service	**JSig Gibbons**
Map Reading	**JSig Murphy**

AND AS THEY SAY

Only 27 shopping days left to Christmas and only 37 days to the next instalment from Kohima Tp.

BATTLEAXE TROOP EXERCISE FIRST LOOK—
15-20 NOVEMBER 1987

Ex First Look was a five day Troop trip to view 28 Sig Regt in St Tonis. The aim was to maintain and foster the close relationship between Battleaxe Troop and our sponsor Unit 28 Sig Regt, and to give junior soldiers the chance to get a feel for life in BAOR.

After an uncoventional method of getting to BAOR, namely train from Darlington to Dover and then as foot passengers to Zeebrugge, where we were met by 28 Sig Regt's representative, **Lt Dave Chattaway** and **Sgt Paul Jennings**, the trip began.

Lt Chattaway and **Sgt Jennings** did an excellent job keeping the boys busy all week with visits to 32 Heavy Regt RA, the RMP detachment at JHQ and also to see the Rapier simulator at RAF Wildenwrath, not to mention early morning PT and a football match. Unfortunately the Troop was trounced 8—3 but valiant efforts were put in by **JSigs Upjohn, Malcolm, Wilson** and **Drudge-Coates**.

On the penultimate day the boys were honoured to meet the Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**.

All in all it was a worthwhile trip and thoroughly enjoyed by all, whether taking part or organising. Long may it continue.

Our thanks are extended to our hosts throughout the visit—**Lt Dave Chataway, Sgts Paul Jennings** and **Guy Whitfield** and **LCpl Gordon Roberts**. In particular, to the CO, **Lt Col Brian Chubb**, for kindly allowing the visit to take place. Again, many thanks 28 Sig Regt.

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

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

1 SQUADRON
FOCUS ON DELTA TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**WO2 Dave Dolling**
2IC	**SSgt Steve Palfreyman**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Alan Morton**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Frank Millington**

The Troop has remained in top gear over the past six months involving itself in a wide variety of Military and Sporting Competitions. This is over and above what has been a fairly busy period with regard to its normal Regiment duties.

FOOTBALL INTER-TROOP SEVEN-A-SIDE COMPETITION

Our first sporting success or part success was in the Inter-Troop seven-a-side football competition. Ably led by our Regimental football duo **Sig (Bruiser) Bradbury** and **Alan 'Cruncher' Smith** our team stormed to a faultless Top of League 1 and found itself against Charlie Tp in what was to be a very easy semi-final winning 10—3. The final however against arch rivals 2 Sqn proved to be another story with **Sgt Nick Williams** ending our hopes, with three lucky goals. We will win it next year, be warned!

INTER-TROOP SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY COMPETITION

Having won the competition last year we were more than determined to retain it this year. After several hard fought victories, including knocking out the favourities, TM Tp, we found ourselves up against a very talented Bravo Tp. Following what was the match of the Competition with no quarter being given we pulled off a sensational 2—1 victory after great goals from **Martin Parr** and **Sig Kev Fogg.**

Sig Kevin Fogg receives the Six-A-Side Hockey Trophy from Lt Col Roberts

REGIMENTAL ORIENTEERING

SSgt Steve Palfreyman, LCpl Andy Jensen and **Sig Laurie Weston** continue to excel and produce fine performances for the Regiment, gaining notable placings in most Minor and Major competitions, well done to them.

REGIMENTAL BOXING

Once again it's 'Lets thump hell out of each other' season, and Delta Troop's answer to Rocky, **Sig 'Bonecrusher' Bradbury**, is at present in heavy training in preparation for a crack at the World Title, (well sort of), look out Bruno! The Troop wish him every success for the coming season.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop would like to give a warm and hearty welcome to our latest fresh faces, some new, some familiar, so hello to the following: **Sgt Andy** and **Jo Sheppard** and family, our very new arrivals, **Sig 'Physco' Perring, 'Betts' Bettany** and **'Griggsy' Griggs**, welcome aboard.

On a sadder note the time has come to bid farewell to two of the Troops outstanding personalities. Goodbye to our Troop Commander **WO2 (Another pit run, another gong please, pathfinder) Dave Dolling!** The Troop thanks him for being a great boss and wish him, his wife **Moyra** and family all the very best as he heads for sunnier climes in the School of Signals, Blandford. Farewell also to another staunch Troop member, **Sig 'Giz' (BFT—no problem) Payne** on his recent posting to H Troop.

INTER SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

The Squadron achieved yet another victory winning the competition with considerable ease. Most notable performances on the day were: First **Sgt Dave Parvin**, third **Sgt Dave Butler**, fourth **Sig Crusty Ireland**, fifth **Sig Al Smith**, eighth **Sig Laurie Weston**, eleventh **Sgt Dougie Wright**, twelfth **Sig Barry Firth** to mention just the top runners.

1 Squadron, winners of the Cross Country

The Male team: Standing: Cpl Trev Broome and WO2 Dave Dolling. Kneeling: Cpls Trev Acres and 'Danny' Fisher

WASSENBERG MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

On 19 September 1987 the local reservists of Wassenberg staged a Military Skills Competition in the town. The competition was open to all German and Dutch Army, Navy and Air Force Units, Local Fire Brigades and local Sports Clubs, and the Regiment. We entered two teams, one male and one WRAC. The WRAC team, I might add, raised wolf whistles from the other competitors. The competition involved orienteering, map marking, observation, field cooking, first aid, a river crossing and a swimming-rescue stand. In short, a very entertaining and different competition which ended in an excellent social get together. The male team did well coming third overall and also winning the Gold Boot for the fastest over the orienteering stage. The WRAC team also did well by coming eighth overall.

WLCpls Wild and Semmens
Kneeling: WLCpls Carr and Stickland

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION—MONCHENGLADBACH

Having favourably completed Wassenberg we decided to enter the much more competitive 'International Military Skills Competition' in Monchengladbach. A total of 62 teams took part from no less than seven different nations. The competition saw teams attempting some 15 different stands, all against the clock. Stands included: Recognition (aircraft, vehicles, roundels and combat uniforms)? (30 of each), patrol boat paddling against the clock, two men to a rubber dinghy river crossing both single and double rope, observation tests both practical and written, assault course, shooting, grenade throwing and of course endurance running. The competition has been cleverly designed to enable every team a fair chance of winning, not just the super fits. To complete what was a most enjoyable if somewhat physical day the organisers laid on the barbecue evening entertainment which served as an excellent opportunity to meet and mix with the other competitors and swop stories along the way.

(To date no results are available but we are confident we have done fairly well for a first time out).

3 SQUADRON
PRESENTATION OF LS&GC

19 October saw the presentation of the LS&GC to three members of the Squadron by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**. The presentation, which included two members of 29 Sig Regt, took place in the Brigade Sergeants' Mess. All three recipients had originally enlisted in the Corps, although for some reason **WO2 Kevin Mulloy** decided to defect to the Intelligence Corps early in his career. Still, he hasn't managed to escape serving with Royal Signals units yet! **SSgt John Webster** joined the Corps in 1971 and has so far fitted in at least two postings in Cyprus in an eventful career. **Sgt Clive Turner's** postings may seem less exotic; Bunde, Beiize, Catterick, Brize Norton etc but he assures us that he enjoyed them all!

The recipients and their wives together with the Master of Signals, Lt Col John Munnery, CO 29 Sig Regt and Maj Steven Andrews OC 3 Sqn

BERLIN MARATHON 1987

On Sunday 4 October, seven members of 3 Sqn, **WO1 Al Hale, SSgt Rick Morris BEM, SSgt 'Chels' Facer, Sgt Pete Ridlington, Sgt Steve Oliver, Cpls Mike O'Doherty** and **Dale Wright** took part in the annual Berlin Marathon. With the exception of **'Chels' Facer** it was a first time marathon for the remainder. The starters gun sounded at 0900 hrs and off went the runners along with 15,000 other athletes on the 26 mile trek. All the runners completed the course with **'Chels' Facer** doing a personal best of 2 hrs 53 mins, **Al Hale** and **Rick Morris** were both under 3½ hrs and the remainder were all in under 4 hrs. As it was the 750th anniversary for Berlin city, **WO1 Al Hale** and **SSgt Rick Morris** decided to run for two charities, Age Concern and the National Children's Home. Sponsorship forms were sent out to various Signals Units around the world and it is hoped to raise £800 to £1,000. The Squadron runners showed no after effects except for the odd blister and from some of them the cries of 'never again' were heard over the last few miles. Still, next year isn't too far away is it?

WO1 Al Hale *(left)* and SSgt 'Rick' Morris outside the Brandenberg Gate where the Marathon started

RSDCC 6/86 with instructors *L to R:* Sgt Petty, Capt Clarke (OC) and Sgt Parnell

RSDCC 6/87

Top Student	**Cpl Norman 22 Sig Regt**
Second	**LCpl Ibbotson 7 Sig Regt**
Third	**LCpl Moody 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt**

WRAC ACTIVITIES
EXERCISE CROSSBOW

This year is the first that the Regiment has entered a WRAC team for Ex Crossbow—so with very little idea about what we were letting ourselves in for, our team of eight cheerfully departed Mercury Barracks for Bracht, our home under canvas for the next few days.

On arrival we were greated by the prospect of a BFT in which we did well, four of our team being the first four girls in, beating many of the men. The next two days were spent at stands in the Leuth training area where we were taught a few of the basic skills that would be needed for the three day exercise at the end of the week.

Having successfully (or so we thought) learned how to cope with a chemical attack, the evacuation of the casualty under enemy fire, and the fine art of basha building—the aim being to achieve concealment, dryness and comfort, we considered ourselves ready for the exercise. The exercise phase started with an assault course competition—quick 'jog' through the countryside followed by a session of leaping, climbing, balancing and swinging. Sadly, due to injury we lost one of the team for the rest of the exercise. After the assault course we moved house again, this time to the Leuth training area where we built a new basha and prepared for our first recce of the enemy positions—the Arsbeckians. This proved to be the first of many recces before it was decided which enemy position to attack. In the meantime the weather had taken a turn for the worse and the rain fell persistently.

It was then that we discovered our basha building wasn't as good as we thought it was. Coming home at 0400 hrs to a 'cosy' sleeping bag, and finding it afloat is no joke. We eventually attacked our chosen enemy who must have been sleeping as we approached as retaliation was weak and not very exciting. Exhausted from little sleep and a lot of creeping around in the dark we went on to the final part of the exercise, a CFT. Our map reading skills were put to the test and after a few variations on the given route we made our way to the range for the shoot, the last phase, and another one in which we did particularly well. The team members were **Lt Hay, Cpl Hardcastle, LCpls Pettit, Strickland, Semmens, Sedgewick, Pack** and **Carr**.

Overall we weren't a leading team but we came in smiling and would all do it again—if really pushed!

WRAC BADMINTON

With the season only six weeks old we have made a good start by coming fourth in the recently held BAOR and Berlin Inter-unit and individual championships, held at the RAF Gym Rheindahlen. At the same tournament **Cpl Karen Prentice** teamed up with **Cpl Haynes** (68 Sqn RCT) and, as current Army champions, they beat off the challenge of many competitive partnerships to capture the open doubles title.

There were also encouraging results in the RCZ Championships, held at 3 BAD Bracht, with **WO2 Anne Livesley** and **Cpl Karen Prentice** reaching the doubles final, but unfortunately after a very hard competitive match they finished runners-up. With the league matches yet to get underway, it has been a very encouraging start and looks promosing for the rest of the season.

ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS
REGIMENTAL MARCHING

The Marching Team, 'Oh! my feet'

After many months training the marching team led by **SSgt (FofS) Jim Waterson** completed Nijmegen 87 with a 100% finish rate, but the story does not end there. Since July the team has collected sponsorship money for the War Widows of Great British Association and by coincidence the fund was finally closed on 11 November 1987; the total raised was DM 3,000 (£1,000). Congratulations to all team members and grateful thanks to all who donated sponsor money. The

team consisted of: **SSgt (FofS) Jim Waterson, SSgt (YofS) Wilf Wedge, Cpls 'Geordie' Chambers, Andy Hilton, LCpl Dave Harrison RE** and **Sig Crusty Ireland. WWO2 Nancy McDougall, WCpls Alyson Semmens, Penny Roberts, Julia Lattaway, Chris Williams** and **WLCpl Paula Mann**. Cycle Orderly **WSSgt Janette Reehal**, Tent Orderly **Cpl Darren Newton**.

BOARDSAILING—1987

The Roermond Icebreaker was the first competition of the season and the weather complemented the naming of this event; strong cold winds provided good sailing conditions if a little chilly for those without drysuits!

Capt Richard Evans, Sgt 'Sully' Sullivan and **Sgt Andy Shepherd** braved the conditions whilst the more sensible **LCpl Dave White** supported from a parked car. It was an individual competition and the author was placed third super heavyweight!

1987 was notable for windy conditions which regrettably failed to coincide with the dates set for competitions. This resulted in both the Royal Signals and BAOR team events being postponed.

The BFG team competition took place in July and we entered a team with the aim of gaining some useful racing experience. The team of **Capt Evans, Sgt Shepherd** and **LCpl White** gained some very useful experience and sailed into second place behind the RAF. The majority of Army teams which entered were Royal Signals and we were, therefore, confident of victory in the Royal Signals competition. This competition which was re-scheduled for September was nearly doomed through lack of wind but **Capt Phil Daisey**, the organiser was determined that racing would take place even in only a breath of wind. Luckily wind conditions improved and the competition developed into a tussle between 16 Sig Regt and ourselves, the team this time being **Capt Evans, WO2 Morrall** and **Sgt Shepherd**. The final race began with either team being in a position to win. The author, finding himself in the lead with his team members close behind was regrettably overcome with shock and having failed to mark the course on his hand, took a wrong turning. We were, therefore, runners up by three points but received our first cup for the trophy cabinet.

The final team event was the re-scheduled BAOR competition and **WO2 Morrall, Sgts Sullivan** and **Shepherd** sailed their way to second place behind a Sapper team and this time beat the 16 Sig Regt team.

The Inter Corps Championships took place in October and **Sgt Shepherd** was selected for the 'A' Team. The Corps won the championships for the first time.

Several courses were run throughout the year at Roermond to instil some interest in the sport and we hope that we shall win in 1988. Boardsailing Colours were awarded to **Capt Evans** and **Sgt Shepherd** for the first time ever at the Sportsman's Dinner and when **LCpl White** can spare some time at Birgelen, he will be awarded his!

The Boardsailing Team. *L to R:* Sgt Sullivan, Capt Evans, the CO, Sgt Shepherd and WO2 Morrall. (Absent on leave LCpl White)

EXERCISE ICELANDIC BACKSTOP

Ask anybody who has been to Iceland and they will tell you that it is 'different'. This was certainly the experience of seven members of the Regiment who took part in Ex Icelandic Backstop. The Expedition was organised by **Capt Richard Evans** and the team members were **Capt Peter Clarke, SSgt Steve Dorman, Sgt Dave Butler, LCpl 'Taff' Lee, Sig Dave White, Simon Waller** and **Cpl Paul Dilks REME** attached from NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron.

Organisation began in January 1987 and at an early stage it was decided to travel by road/ferry to overcome the uncertainty involved with flights. The ferry route itself incorporated a mini cruise as the ship sailed the following route; Denmark—Faroe Islands—Shetland—Norway—Shetland—Faroe Islands—Iceland! Three days were spent in the Faroe Islands where boots, legs and shoulders were all exercised over some very rugged and mountainous terrain.

The memories of the Faroes and the Scandinavian buffet on the boat soon passed when we arrived in Iceland and began the 800km road journey to Skaftafell National Park. The word road is used somewhat loosely as tarmac only exists in limited stretches and those in the back of the landrover remembered this part of the journey most vividly. Skaftafell is at the southernmost edge of Vatnajokull, Europe's largest icefield; consisting of 3,280 sqare miles of ice and snow. The first few days were spent on familiarisation training on the moraine of some nearby glaciers and the essential technique of crevice rescue was soon put into operation when **SSgt Steve Dorman** wedged himself into one after a 15ft slide. Thankfully, no injury was incurred.

Iceland's highest peak, Hvannadalshnukur, is a reasonably accessible mountain by Icelandic standards and although it is not particularly high (2,116m) the thrill of venturing on to a real ice cap and the spectacular views afforded combine to make it a tantalising prospect especially for the novice. Climbing the peak was our main objective and at 0200 hrs as the sun was just rising we set out from base camp just below the snow line. The snow was hard, making walking easy on crampons. A few spectacular crevices are to be found in the lower section but most of these are easily avoided and route finding is not difficult. After four hours of climbing we reached the base of Hvannadalshnukur and attempted to ascend an 'easy' route via the North East face to the summit. After crossing a recent avalanche field we began the ascent; our route was blocked, however, by a bottomless crevice, which **Capt Peter Clarke** almost christened with his presence. We turned back as there was no other route up this face and somewhat dejected began the journey back. We noticed, however, that there was another route up the South East face which although more difficult would certainly be an exciting challenge for the group. As we neared the summit we were passed by a group of Frenchmen climbing without crampons; this boosted the group's confidence considerably! Six hours after leaving our camp, we arrived on the top of Iceland. In view of the limited experience of the group, it was a rewarding achievement and the spectacular views were breathtaking. The rest of our time in Iceland was taken up by climbing on Eyjafjallajokull, a much smaller icefield and the ascent of Hekla, notable as one of Icelands most recently active volcanoes. In the final three days we visited Reykjavik, geysers, hot springs, volcanoes and eventually returned to Seydisfjorder, our start point for the return journey to Birgelen.

We would like to thank Rhode and Schwarz (UK) for their generous sponsorship in providing Gortex waterproofs and Filtronics for providing four 'Ultimate' tents.

On the top of the Hvannadalshnukur. *L to R Front:* LCpl Dave White, Sgt Dave Butler, Capts Peter Clarke, Richard Evans and Sig Simon Waller. *L to R Rear:* LCpl 'Taff' Lee, Cpl Paul Dilks and SSgt Steve Dorman

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

End of an Era
Frau Emmy Sturm retired after 26 years loyal service at Langeleben, with 2 Sqn 13 Sig Regt, 225 Sig Sqn, 1 Sqn 14 Sig Regt and Field Station Langeleben. Lt Col J. D. Stokoe presented Emmy with a Regimental decanter to mark the occasion and thanked her for her hard work on behalf of all members of the Corps who have passed through Langeleben

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON AT BATTLE CAMP
Through the eyes of Sgt 'Danny' Daniel
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj E. P. J. Kellett**
2IC	**Capt B. T. Dearman**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) J. R. McKenzie**

One week after the end of Ex Reforger in which the Regiment was tested in it's technical and practical skill in carrying out it's role and passing with full colours. It was decided to bring us down to earth by a test of our military skills. To this end on Saturday 3 September the Squadron with the remainder of the Regiment travelled to Vogelsang. Having arrived the remainder of Saturday evening was taken up with taking over of accommodation and preparation for the early start on Sunday morning—PT at 0600 hrs!

SUNDAY
Under the Section Commander **SSgt Bill 'Mad Dog' Dyson, SSgt Dick 'I am too old for this' Woodfine, WO2 'Elvis' Pylee, WO2 (QMSI) 'Action Man' Parker, SSgt 'New Arrival' Jarwood** and **Sgt 'Tally' Talbot.**
We practised the skills which would be needed in the gruelling week ahead. The afternoon was taken up with Fibua training (fighting in built up areas) which gave an insight into the mayhem which was to follow.

MONDAY
On Monday the opportunity was taken to put the complete Squadron through the APWT. It was also on this day that the watchword of the Battle Camp was first mentioned; background activity! Background activity on this day took the form of: 66/64 training, practice grenade throwing, GPMG training, NBC revision and first aid. The approach to NBC revision by **WO2 Farquharson** and **Sherwood** was particularly good. Monday evening saw the first high point of the camp, the Squadron assisted by 2 Sqn defended a village which was to be attacked by 1 and 3 Sqns.
We were eventually ordered to allow them to take the village which we did with good grace, but not before a few members of HQ Sqn had acquitted themselves with honour. The roll reads: **Sgt Chris 'Maniac' Bough, Cpl Paul 'I killed at least 50' Hubble,** and **LCpl 'They are not taking this house' Mairs.**

TUESDAY
Taking full advantage of Vogelsang we fired on a further three ranges. They were: moving target, advance to contact and section in defence. A different member of each section being tasked as section leader on each range. Needless to say there was also the obligatory Background Activity. Tuesday evening was again taken up with instructing 1 and 3 Sqns in the intricacies of Fibua training. This time 1 and 3 Sqns defended whilst HQ and 2 Sqns attacked. This was fortunate for having dispatched 1 and 3 Sqns from the village by 2030 hrs an early night was had by all.

WEDNESDAY
The pace of the exercise was maintained on Wednesday with: Molotov Cocktail Instruction, the Tank Confidence Course, the battle assault range and a night shoot on which we fired with 84mm, the GPMG and the LMG all using tracer ammunition. The Tank Confidence Course involved individuals lying on the floor whilst a tank passed over them (not one for the faint hearted). On this course it was noted that a few members of the Squadron needed to diet.

THURSDAY
This was the last day of actual training. The main activities of the day were live grenade throwing. Firing of the 84mm using training rounds, battle inoculation and the assault course competition. The battle inoculation course involved trying to do an assault course with faces pressed to the ground as live rounds flew over our heads. A feat which was managed by all I am glad to report. The assault course competition was a fitting end to the training phase of the camp as it was a particularly tough course. All teams gave of their best which was reflected by all times being extremely close.

THE SMOKER
Having first practised our technical and now our military skills, the Regiment decided to practise it's secondary role in times of war; that of 14 Sig Regt Concert Party (not many people know that). To this end the Troops had to produce a five minute sketch. The quality of those produced was such that the secondary role must become a definite possibility. Whilst care was taken to avoid character assassinations, regimental personalities were portrayed, doing what they do best causing the rest of us to 'roll in the aisle'. Special mention must be given to **WO2 (QMSI) Parker** and his team on their sketch, also to the other teams, all of whom helped to make it a very enjoyable night. I cannot end without mentioning Master Chef **WO2 Chris Lee** and his chefs who are to be congratulated on the quantity and quality of the food produced throughout the camp. Their efforts went a long way towards the success and enjoyment of Vogelsang 87.

Pathfinders par Excellence
WO2 (SSM) Bob McKenzie and OC HQ Maj Eddie Kellett
This photograph sums up the pathfinding abilities of the OC and SSM while leading those gallent men of A2 Ech to the next location. Who decided to go left instead of right?

1 SQUADRON
COLONEL'S CUP COMPETITION
This year the OC, **Lt Col Stokoe,** decided that his competition would take place over several days. As soon as the news hit the Troops, **LCpl Colwell** volunteered for Ex Purple Warrior in Scotland, **Cpl 'Pig Pen' O'Hara** decided now was the time for a roulement tour of NI, **Sgt Dave Stepleton** and **LCpl 'Mandy' Bamber** developed limps and the remainder looked for 'Black Holes' to show their 'acquired' kit!
The competition took the form of various inspections, accommodation, tentage, vehicles, No 2 dress and cam nets were just a few. **SSgts Steve Maddison** and **Dave Taylor** soon developed a booming black market trade. **Cpl 'Wally' Walsh** set up his own art school, giving lessons with his stencil kit.

March and Shoot Competition Winners
Front L to R: WO2 Doughty, Cpls Walsh, Fanning, Sig Atherton and Middleton
Rear L to R: LCpls McGraw, Smith, Cpls Thomson, Heward and Dalton

Days three and four of the competition consisted of a defence exercise followe by a March and Shoot Competition. The defence exercise had each Squadron split into 10 man sections. Trenches were soon dug and a surprise attack came in the form of Comd Comms, **Brig Tim Waugh**. During the night it soom became obvious that some sections were more relaxed than others as **Cpl Gaz Foster** and **Cpl 'Hotspot' Belfield** will testify (if they ever wake up). **Cpl 'Ned' Kelly** decided that two sets of webbing were better than one and promptly relieved a 3 Sqn trench of some whilst on patrol.
0500 hrs saw Endex declared and the March and Shoot Competition begin. It was a gruelling 17.4km march around Scheuen training area. When the times were checked if was found to be a 1 Sqn team led by **WO2 Doughty** which had won (in a fast time as **Cpl's Bob Fanning** and **Frank Dalton** will agree!). **Sig 'Geordie' West** decided he would be the casualty on the stretcher for the final 500m and no one argued. Meanwhile **Cpl Alex Rankin** thought now was the time to inject a bit of pace into the J Tp section and sprinted the final 500m leaving everyone, including J Tp OC **2Lt J. Botterill** in his wake.
At a full Regimental parade the results were announced and once again 1 Sqn were the winners! Better luck next year 2, 3 and HQ Sqns!

EXERCISE SWEATY PALM '87
The Regiment places great emphasis on the teaching and practising of the art of Escape and Evasion, therefore an annual large scale Regimental Battlefield Survival Exercise is held.
Capt J. Perks (Chief Instructor) and **WO2 (SSM) A. Tomlinson** planned this year's exercise in two phases. Phase one was a conditioning and survival instruction phase and phase two Escape and Evasion, against a capable and well-equipped enemy. During the conditioning phase the students were 'beasted' by the Army's equivalent to the 'Beastie Boys'—**Cpl Colin Kavanagh, LCpls 'Mooncat' Murphy** and **Bob Ackland-Snow.**

The Three Evils
L to R: Cpls Kavangh, Adams and Gardner

Ex SWEATY PALM — OC'S WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Phase two began after a week's break at Vogelsang, on Regimental Battle Camp. With well over 100 men involved in this counter-insurgency operation, movement on Phase two was very dangerous, as 1 Sqn OC **Maj Hudson** found out to his cost, whilst taking a stroll on a bridge. Various teams managed to avoid capture throughout the week. **LCpls Steve Evans, 'R2' Williamson** and **Cpl Eddie Thomson** were just a few who managed to persuade local Germans that it would be a good idea to assist them by providing food and drink. Some even managed to get car lifts past all the Hunter's ambushes (not that anyone in 1 Sqn will own up to it). Most people admitted that they had learned a lot about escape, survival and endurance. They all assured us in the event of wanting to escape they should certainly know how to set about it.

2 SQUADRON
SHQ
Well here we are again, writing *Wire* notes, in the lead up to Christmas we have been kept busy. Our major occupation in November was the Commanding Officer's Competition. Rumour abounded as to what we would be doing. Due to his recent operation **Maj Williamson** had to hand over command of the Squadron to his 2IC, **Capt Kempster. WO2 (SSM) Haywood** had to go back to the UK for the RSMs' Convention. **SSgt Palmer** and his sidekick **LCpl Fitton** were in UK on courses. This left us with the MT SNCO, **SSgt Spiers** (stand-in SQMS/SSM) and **LCpl Stephens** from the Squadron SHQ—rather busy during the preparations for the CO's cup and the actual execution.
During December we had a round of parties and a special dining out for **Maj Williamson**—OC (all the best in your next Unit) to **WO2 (SSM) Haywood** (soon to be **WO1 (RSM) Haywood**) enjoy 30 Sig Regt, to **WO2 Frize** all the best in your new posting, and finally to **WO2 Williamson** (attached from Royal Australian Signals) have a good trip home and thanks for all the work!

K TROOP
October saw Kilo Tp busy with various exercise commitments, the main one being Ex Keystone, 2 Div's BAOR exercise. The Troop fared well and all ranks seemed to actually enjoy themselves. In November, after post Keystone admin, the full fury of the CO's Cup, the annual Regimental competition was upon us. This included an infantry field exercise, vehicle inspections, stores accountancy, area and dress inspections, so the Troop was kept busy in preparation.
This paid off with Kilo Tp winning the best vehicle award (Bromure 6) commanded by **Cpl 'it's a shed really' Marty Le-Lacheur** and crewed by **LCpl 'me back' Bob Giffard** and **Sig 'I thought I'd done it' Garry Bligh**. Well done to all.
The Troop also did very well in the March and Shoot Competition but at the finish realised they had left **LCpl 'I can do it Sarge' Dave Longfield** behind. 2 Sqn finished in second place by one point. However, the lads of K Tp are determined to get the CO's cup next time. (Funny I thought I heard a groan).
Also this month saw us say a sad farewell to **Lt 'the boss' Lawrence** and **LCpl Glen Belfit**; we wish them all the best for the future.
On 20 November the 'Gong Squad' paraded at the Porta Denkmal for the Lubbecke ridge run (yet another good idea) the team members all did very very well to all finish within 2hrs 5min, in what was a gruelling 24km cross country run. 'Gong Squad' members were: **Sgt 'damnation another hill' Stringer, Cpl 'orange juice anybody' Dave George, LCpl 'what hill' Andy Ham, LCpl 'where's the stretcher' John Yates, LCpl 'gis a fag' Bret Laverick** and **Sig 'good jiff this' 'Skelly' Skelton.**
Meanwhile the Troop is waiting, with fingers crossed, for the Tels inspection.

MOVEMENTS
ARRIVALS
LCpl Andy Ham from Berlin and **Mr Fox** from SHQ.

MATCHES
Congratulations to **Cpl 'Scouse' Traynor** and **Lorraine, LCpl John Yates** and **Anka, Sig Jim Berry** and (another) **Anka** (one more and we'll have a Navy) on their recent marriage.

Best wishes for the future to **Lt Ian Lawrence** and **LCpl Glen Belfit** posted to Munster.

N TROOP
N Tp has been quite busy with Ex Reforger in September. The Regiment deployed to meet the threat from 3 US Corps which was the enemy. As an enemy they were quite friendly. Anyone who wants a camp cot can contact **Sgt Pete Gilbert**. It was **Capt 'Alfie' Brand**'s first major exercise with the Troop and he managed to get away from RCP to visit the men at the 'front' and see for himself what was going on. He did this in spite of his driver **LCpl 'Jack' Corner** who had just beaten the OC to win the 'Golden Blanket' award; who drove the rover anyway?

Sgt Geoff Backhouse our new MT SNCO showed his lads 'how not to do it' by re-arranging his bumper on a night move.

Ex Sweaty Palm in October passed off fairly quietly for N Tp. Most enjoyed the company of the JSIW team at some point! **Cpl Andy Chapman** decided to liven things up by surrendering to his interrogators with a rendering of 'Rule Britannia'. They finally cracked and let him go again.

Hellos, goodbyes and congratulations—to **Capt Brand, Sgt Backhouse** and **Cpl Gibbins** (Christmas in the FI is something else again)—to **WO1 Bob Carty** to Training Wing (you forgot to take you batman), **LCpl Bob Geelan** to 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl Phil Donaldson** to civvy street—to **Pete** and **Kim Farmer** on the arrival of **Alex** and **Bob** and **Bev McMurray** on the arrival of **Andrew**. Both Dads are looking forward to a good night's sleep when on the next exercise.

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Y TROOP
'No field shall be left undug' was obviously the order issued to Y Tp by OC 2 Sqn, **Maj Bob Williamson** before (we even filled a few in; not the one the Troop OC fell into) that remains a secret, although it can be revealed that **Cpl Cliff Buckley** won the award for champion digger, going beyond the call of duty and even employing local school children to dig one of his trenches.

Rumours that the Troop was allowed a ten per cent casualty rate during our three weeks 'camping trip' were firmly denied by Troop OC **Lt 'Chalkie' Whyte**, but we did our best to achieve it nevertheless. **Sgt 'Mac' McCreedy** now knows that exhaust fumes can leave a bad taste and **SSgt Bob Allum** found out that aspirins do not cure pneumonia.

Morale was maintained throughout Reforger by **Sgt Steve 'Patel' Phelps** and his Troop shop which gave good service (at a price!) and was 'open all hours'. He even demonstrated his flair for business by selling a crate of coke to an American enemy tank! Despite being surrounded several times and being cut off behind enemy lines, no-one from the Troop was captured, although **Sgt Frank Bowker** and **Cpl Steve Spencer** and their detachments made quick getaways on several occasions. **WO2 'JJ' Smith** and **LCpl 'Jack' Hawkins** found the best way to avoid being captured was to change sides whenever necessary and carried a nice selection of orange triangles and white crosses. This wasn't cheating, just initiative.

All too soom the exercise came to an end. Since the Americans paid for Ex Reforger they were deemed to have 'won', although Y Tp know the real result!

3 SQUADRON
Rain was running down his neck as he surveyed the forest. The trees were no more than two metres apart, except where an unhealthy looking drain emptied into a stagnant pond. He looked up: an unbroken range of hills completely circled the forest, forming a large, steep bowl. The ground was sodden; he noticed this from the way his feet were disappearing. 'Yes', he muttered to himself, 'a perfect RCP location . . .'.

A typical moment from Ex Reforger where 3 Sqn was extremely successful in causing havoc with comms, along with the rest of the Regiment! Of the many highlights of Ex Reforger mention must be made of the Squadron OC's last 'ditch' defence of Oscar Tp against a company of Orange (ie, friendly) heli-borne infantry! **Sig 'Dinger' Bell**'s equipment refurbishing programme on any visible mast or telephone, **WO1 (FofS) Morley**'s blackout scheme for Papa (disguised as 'finding the power points'), NCC's midnight feasts of carrots and turnips, **LCpls Hinman** and **Jones**'s tank encounters, and the links comedy of 'Larry and Parry' **(Sig Larry Littleton** and **Steve Parry)** to name but a few must go down in the Squadron annals.

After Ex Reforger came the Regimental Battle Camp at Vogelsang. **Sig Marty Fell** 'hung on' to his burning molotov cocktail rather too closely; he will not do that again! **Lt Adrian Campbell-Black** also made his debut on Battle Camp: Oscar Tp showed an initial reluctance to indulge in one of his nocturnal rambles, though the popularity of these increased dramatically on Ex Sweaty Palm with the introduction of jungle tactics and chopsticks. Battle Camp was closely followed by Ex Sweaty Palm, the Regimental Escape and Evasion Exercise.

There has been a very large turnover of personnel recently: **Maj Roger Clague** has departed for 1 (BR) Corps at Bielefeld, **Lt Garry Hearn** will soon be in 'civvies', **SSgts Steve MacMahon, Don Blacklaw, Tony Wise** and **Sgt John Duckworth** have all either gone or unable to think of anything else!

In their places come, **Lt Adrian Campbell-Black, SSgt Terry German, Sgts Kevin Munelly, John Salter** and **Norman Yarwood. Capt Mark Perry** thought he had escaped 3 Sqn, but is soon to be dragged back into the fold!

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?
TEL 01 930 4466 EXTN 8242

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Celia Staples**
Tfc Offr/OC O	**Capt (Tfc) Geoff Downey**
AO/OC X	**Capt Carol Mohan**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Ron Allan**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Tony Sarginson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Maggie McKendrick**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) John McCaffery**
SQMS DES	**SSgt (SQMS) Ian Knights**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
Since the last *Wire* notes, the Squadron has had a massive turnover and to list all the moves would use up most of our allotted space. We therefore wish all those personnel leaving the Squadron good luck and best wishes for the future, We would also like to welcome all new arrivals to the Squadron and hope they have a most enjoyable and worthwhile tour.

RECENT EVENTS
After Ex Plain Sailing we thought we could relax a bit but this lasted about two minutes because along came Battle Camp and CO's day inter-mingled with the visits to the Squadron of **Maj Gen Yeoman** and **Brig Neald (Director of WRAC).**

FAREWELL VISIT BY MAJ GEN A. YEOMAN CB COMD COMMS BAOR
A frequent visitor to the Commcen and Telephone House, **Maj Gen Yeoman** visited for the last time to see his 'boys and girls' as he liked to call all the operators and technicans. **Gen Yeoman** will be sadly missed by all members of the Squadron who laid on a surprise treat for him in the Commcen rest room. Refreshments were provided during which a few presentations and speeches were made. These consisted of a BLR'd cassette (box of bits!) complete with 1043, the real repaired cassette (Mod Strike 3!), a framed photo of the General when he was a Brigadier presenting an LS&GC to **Capt (Tfc) Geoff Downey** who was then a WO2 (YofS). The photograph was obviously not in colour! The final presentation was a stone statuette of a golfer which we hope the General will always treasure and remind him of his 'boys and girls' in 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt.

Comd Comms received his BLR'd cassette from the OC Sqn Maj Celia Staples. Sgts Max Inman and Brenda Cox look on knowing that the repaired one is still to come

VISIT OF BRIG S. P. NEALD ADC (DIRECTOR WRAC)
Brig Neald visited 1 Sqn for the first time and spoke to members of the WRAC who were on shift either in Telephone House or BAOR Commcen. She appeared most impressed both by the working environment and the high morale of all the WRAC members. We sincerely hope that she will visit again soon.

DWRAC is impressed that Cpl Pat Millar is employed in the normally all male world of Crypto. The YofS, OC Sqn and Maj Westlake are obviously amused by the Corporal's comments

DWRAC tours the main traffic hall in the company of the Commcen 'Yuppies'—the Yeoman and the Traffic Officer

The DWRAC meets the DSO of the day—Sgt Brenda Cox. Both have served together before and are talking over old times

Brig Nealds questions Pte Gray about life as a technician. Sgt Max Inman (*left*) and the FofS look suitably impressed

BATTLE CAMP—EXERCISE MIXED MEMORIES

A Squadron level Battle Camp was held during the period 26-30 October 1987 at Leuth Training Area. It was split into two phases with half the personnel on each phase. The Squadron has to go on a two way shift over this period as unlike other Units, we cannot just down tools to participate in these mandatory and worthwhile activities. The activities included the basics such as NBC, First Aid, Weapons, and Navigation. Also included were Orders, use of Pyro, Field hygiene, Field defences and Basha building. Day two consisted of Section attacks, wood clearance drills, anti ambush drills and a competition between eight half sections. After the competition all sections boarded some four tonners thinking they were going back to camp. This was not to be as the DS had organised an ambush in which the four tonners were disabled and all sections would have to march back to camp. The DS relented however, by picking up all personnel at the 12 mile point. The WRAC did very well on the march actually embarrassing some male members of the Squadron! The DS consisted of **Capt Carol (Krypton Factor) Mohan WRAC, WO2 (YofS) Ron Allan, SSgt (SQMS) John McCaffery, SSgt Duncan Fortieth, Sgt Shane Larkin** and **Sgt Shaun Kent**.

The following awards were made during the exercise:-

DS

Golden Blanket	**SQMS (Getting a job with British Rail as a sleeper)**
Golden Spoon	**SQMS (Ration Pack Raider)**
Golden War Story	**Rambo (Slug Eater) Larkin**
Golden Velcro	**YofS (Not quite a full zip)**

STUDENTS

Golden Compass	**Cpl Shirley 'Marco Polo' Leach**
Golden Excuse Maker	**Cpl Dave 'Well actually I'd just like to make one point clear' Leaning**
Golden Thunderflash	**Pte Sue 'Light the blue touch paper, etc' Cronin**
Golden Blister	**Pte Sue 'theres a foot on my blister' Gough**
Golden Prescription	**Pte 'Taff' 'I'm ill, I'm OK, I'm ill, I'm OK' James**

Our congratulations go to **Sig Steve 'Studley' Culham** who was the enemy on wood clearance and managed to get himself killed four times. He was then reincarnated, to become a first aid casualty for the competition and then subsequently shot 16 times!

PS: There is no truth in the rumour that **Cpl Shirley 'Marco Polo' Leach** has applied for an SAS probation course.

2 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Andy Field**
2IC	**Capt Mick Nevill**
SSM	**WO2 Rick Lewis**
OC Juliet	**Capt Eric 'Yeti' Heritage**
OC Sierra	**Lt 'Max' Tait**
OC Kilo	**Lt Jon Field (and Bratwurst the dog)**
OC Romeo	**Lt Adrian 'Snake' Clewlow**
YofS	**SSgt Ian 'Pinky' Lake**
FofS	**SSgt Ian 'Perky' Atherton**

KILO TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt John Field**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Paul Staynings**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Joe Malloy**

After some 20 years service in the Corps, we finally, say farewell to the last Field Bruin Commcen in 16 Sig Regt—Commcen Kilo.

Over the last five years, we have seen our sister commcens from both Corps and RCZ areas fold in favour of the Ptarmigan system. The inevitable has finally happened and on Friday 13 November 1987 the CO ordered the backloading of our Commcen, to be replaced by two mini Nodes, which are being collected from UK this month.

Commcen Kilo first appeared on the scene between 1967-1971, when it replaced the Regiment's field role of a medium Radio Troop and Cable Troop with a Bruin Commcen. The tasks, personalities, successes and disasters will be long forgotten by most, but I am sure are still remembered by all those who served with the Troop over the years.

As well as Bruin, we would like to extend fond farewells to **Sgt Joe** and **Tina Malloy** on promotion, going to Gateshead. **Cpl Alex** and **Louise Alexander** on promotion, going to 8 Sig Regt and **Cpl Ken (soon to wed) O'Riordan** on promotion, going to 40 Sig Regt (V).

Sig Smith talks to the CO about the last 10kva's in the Regiment

The CO is not impressed!

SIERRA TROOP

Sierra Tp is now fully formed and raring to go under the guidance of **Lt 'Max' Tait** and **Sgt Pete 'ugly' Griffiths**. The Troop has come a long way since it was reformed and is now 39 strong. It is at present recovering from a very busy October and November when we had RSIT and CO's Day, when even the oldies like **Cpl 'Cass' Cassidy** had to leave their armchairs and work!

Congratulations to **LCpl John Cockburn** and his wife **Marika** on the birth of their daughter **Kelly**.

Welcome to **Lt Shelagh MacLeod** (who by the time this appears in print will be the new Troop OC), **Sgt 'Geordie' Scott** (what does he look like?) and **Cpl 'Baz' Eglinton**. Fond farewells are extended to **Sgt Simon 'I'm going grey' Hill** who moves to Romeo Tp, **LCpl Rob 'Pecker' Clark** on promotion to 1 Sig Bde, and **Tony Fuller** to 3ADSR.

ROMEO TROOP

A mementous occasion occurred way back in August here in Krefeld (no the sun did not finally come out!). After two years **Lt J. Williams** departed for the subalterns play-pen, Shrivenham. His successor after a swift (but sure) jump between Squadrons is **2Lt Adrian 'Roo' Clewlow**.

Despite Ex Reforger '87 being promised as static, Romeo Tp (Trunk Node 031) was soon on the road to Osnabruck, Munster, Bielefeld and finally Celle. The Troop OC was overheard to ask SEP if they could also go to Berlin as he had never visited the city—refused! Lesson one, never believe anybody about static exercises.

Ex Keystone saw the Troop out in force again as Trunk Node 033, and an appointment was booked with the medical centre about our personality crisis. We were told the exercise would be static, ho ho, so everyone took their travel bags.

Life has settled down again just in time for Christmas.

Before we go we must say hello to **Sgt 'Brummy' Hill** who has moved from S Tp and also to **LCpl 'wheres my canoe' Dobson** and **Pte 'ey up' Caisley**—welcome to sunny 16.

4 SQUADRON

As usual there have been many arrivals and departures over the past six months. The 2IC, **Capt Ann Ford WRAC/R Signals** left both the Squadron and the Army in June this year. Her signals expertise will be missed and we wish her well in her new career of accounting. She is replaced by **Capt Marian Lauder WRAC**. Many other members, too numerous to mention here, have also moved on. Several servicewomen in the Squadron have opted for housewifery in peference to data-telegraphy or switchboard-opery.

The Squadron 2IC, **Lt Deans** and SSM, **WO2 Lawrence**, had the misforture to be given a jinxed landrover when they went on a recce for the Squadron military training exercise. The landrover ploughed into the mud in a forest in Minden at 1700 hrs and was pulled out, complete with occupants at 0200 hrs the next morning. It would be indiscreet to reveal which of the three was driving but she has not yet lived it down in the Sergeants' Mess.

Fortunately the exercise itself was not bedevilled with such inactivity. It was held in lieu of the cancelled Regimental battle camp. In fact two exercises had to be run on consecutive weeks to get everyone through and still maintain the 24 hour manning of Corps Commcens and Exchange. It was decided that a change was needed from yet more mind-numbing NBC and first aid. That is how 80 members of the WRAC came to be practising fire and manoeuvre, patrolling and camouflage and concealment on a little known ('and boggy'—SSM) training area in Minden.

With reveille at 0430 hrs the exercise started with a whimper. A kit check did not reveal a single lipstick or tube of styling gel—this was obviously to be a serious 36 hours. The first day had the sections map reading their way around teaching stands. Voice procedure on Clansman sets proved popular, although none could understand why it was being taught by gunners. 'SASWRACS' soon entered the Squadron vocabulary as each section passed through the fire and manoeuvre stand. After a day-long trek sections were gathered in and transported to their platoon bases where, to quote **LCpl Cooke**, everyone hoped to 'dive into their green slug and gaze at the stars'. Sleep, on a 36 hour exercise? The DS had other ideas, like lessons on night navigation and observation followed by recce and fighting patrols. One successful recce patrol managed to hoodwink their enemy into handing over maps and cups of tea by telling a useful story about being lost.

For those who did sleep, reveille was at 0430 hrs—more thunderflashes. After compo breakfast and breaking camp it was time for ambush drills. These led straight onto a platoon-level ambush skillfully organised by **WO1 (YofS) Watson** and infantry DS on loan. The exercise ended with a section competition which confirmed everyone's image of the SSM—how come her stand was the toughest, wettest, steepest and muddiest both weeks—in full NBC IPE too? On return to camp it was champagne for the winning sections and a piece of 4 × 2 and a wire brush for the rest.

Moving back to more general matters, the Squadron now contains some notable sportswomen. **Pte Townsend** has raised Badminton to a higher plane and **Pte Perkins** is racing her way up the Squash ladder (as the OC, **Maj Rayner**, discovered to his cost when he was challenged). The Orienteering team were worthy runners-up in the 1 (BR) Corps relays. Credit must also go to everyone who participated in the Ripon Bks Coe Cup Sports Competition. The emphasis is on taking part rather than winning and our teams competed with spirit and humour. There were no smiles on the faces of the odds-on favourite team in the Tug-of-War though, as they were beaten by our WRAC team. Heckling from the spectators of 'can't pull them on the sports field, let alone in the NAAFI', did nothing to quell their shame. Our WRAC team earned much kudos by coming a very creditable second against strong, well trained male opposition.

Pte Montgomery is spotted on camouflage and concealment

Pte Murphy interprets her findings on the intelligence gathering stand

Lt Deans prepares for battle

EXERCISE PHANTOM TREAD II

In late September/early October 12 members of the Regiment embarked upon a pre-Nepal training expedition called Ex Phantom Tread II in central Norway. **Capt Eric Heritage** (the ex Nepalese Backstop Leader) wisely delegated the task of training officer to **2Lt Isobel Rose**, who as able to use her persuasive charms to convince BOBC Norway to allow the team to undertake this out of season special trekking expedition. After a lengthy journey in a minibus (which broke down outside Bielefeld) a coach from Hannover and Ferry to Kristiansand the team eventually found themselves on the overnight sleeper from Oslo. At 0430 hrs in total darkness the team was turfed out onto the railway station platform in the remote village

'You know it takes three hot toddies to get me going in the morning'—SSgt Rick Cooper last up as usual

of Finse. From there the team split into three groups led by **Capt Heritage, 2Lt Rose** and **Cpl Nick Bell** and embarked upon their 120km trek. Extreme weather conditions were experienced during the first two days; the skies were overcast, the wind was relentless and bitterly cold, and blizzards made progress slow. At the end of the second day at the resupply point at Dyranut **WLCpl Carol Brockelsby** and **WPtes Mandy Stenner** and **Nicky Watson** accompanied **Lt Rose** to the final destination location to carry out fitness building day treks. The remaining group continued its way southwards over what can only be described as a remote, barren, unfriendly countryside almost devoid of any living life; the team saw no trees, met only four other people and caught sight of two ptarmigan of the feathered variety. Since the winter weather was fast closing in many of the vital bridges had been dismantled for the season. Consequently on one or two occasions individuals had to strip down to the bare essentials, rope up and wade their way through deep, fast flowing rivers. Despite the trials and tribulations the strangely awe-inspiring, breathtaking scenery left an indelible impression upon all those taking part in the expedition. Throughout, the team maintained high spirits as **SSgt 'Rick' Cooper** can verify; **SSgt 'Jock' Letford** provided a centre of attraction vis-a-vis his Gandhi-like waterproof and was a source of inspiration given that his feet were severly blistered courtesy of Dulmen; as the only girl in the party **WLCpl Maggie Hall** managed to keep the men under control especially **LCpl Shaun Parkin**. After seven days of strenuous trekking both teams met up at the pickup point at Haukelisaetter to give their weary feet a well earned rest. This also gave all a chance to swap stories; of particular embarrassment to the girls group was the explosion of their Hunter cookers whilst they were cooking some freshly caught trout. Prior to the team's return to BAOR a brief period of R&R was enjoyed in Kristiansand and everyone soon discovered how expensive Norway really is; of course, I'm sure that **SSgts Al Geddes** and **'Rick' Cooper** have been able to explain to their wives about the £33 bills run up on their credit cards. At the end of the day, though, all had a wonderful time and learned a lot from their experiences in Norway.

Striding ahead—WLCpl Carol Brockelsby leads the way

Even time for a bit of Rock and Roll (*Left to Right*) SSgt Rick Cooper and Cpl Nick Bell

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

BR (RCZ) MAJOR UNITS NOVICE BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The finals of the Championships were held on Thursday 26 November 1987 in the Station Gymnasium of RAF Wildenrath hosted by 21 Sig Regt (AS). Principal guests included **Gp Capt A. McKay**, the Station Commander and **Lt Col G. C. F. Mitchinson MBE**, Chief of Staff HQ (BR) RCZ who presented the trophies at the conclusion of the boxing.

The boxing commenced with a well fought bantam-weight contest with **LCpl Marnell** (21) beating **LCpl Watters** (13). 21 Sig Regt won the next three bouts until **LCpl Galloway** (13), showing great endurance, boxed **Cpl Coffey** (21) to defeat in the light-middleweight contest. This proved to be the bout of the evening.

After a short interval **Sig Shirley** (13) outboxed **LCpl Jones** in another very good entertaining contest at middleweight. The last three bouts were all won by the home team making it a 7—2 score.

No contest is ever successful without good spectator support and it is a credit to both Units' enthusiasm that the support was in the best traditions of sportsmanship.

Finally thanks must go to the hard working fatigue personnel who prepared the Gymnasium, led by **Sgts Hill** and **Poulson.**

The team now box the winners of the Berlin Garrison in early January 1988 in Berlin.

21 Sig Regt Boxing Team
Back Row: Ch Tech Hains (Piper), Sig Gash, Lt Broad, LCpl Jones, Sig Anderson, WO1 (RSM) McBain (Boxing Officer), Sig Sparkes, LCpl Robertson, Sig McPherson, Cpl Soloman and Sig McKenzie
Front Row: SSgt Ramsey (Coach), Sig Matthews, Cpl Monro, LCpls Lindo, Marnell, Sig Burton, Cooney and Cpl Coffey

LCpl Marnell receiving the Winners Trophy from the Chief of Staff HQ (BR) RCZ, Lt Col Mitchinson

3 SQUADRON
SHQ

The headquarters of 3 Sqn whilst continuing to administer the airfield Troops located at Wildenrath, Laarbruch, Bruggen and Gutersloh, as well as the Roetgen detachment and JHQ detachment, has now undergone some changes within its structure.

The Squadron headquarters having now received its 3 Sqn signs can at last be found by us visitors, **Sgt Pete 'the flower pot man' Searle** can also be found leaf clearing, and generally pottering about planting bulbs and repotting geraniums, when not employed providing transport support. Personality changes have also occurred with the inter-Squadron posting of **WO2 (SSM) Peter Underwood** to HQ Sqn and **WO2 (SSM) Terry Hughes** ex 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn from HQ Sqn to 3 Sqn. The other notable change was the promotion of **Sig 'Grif' Griffiths** our clerk to Lance Corporal and his posting into the chief clerk's empire in RHQ. The new clerk **Sig Mick Mulcaire** is enjoying the varied clerical work in this busy SHQ.

SHQ
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Bob Bates**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Terry Hughes**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Martin Richards**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Pete Searle**
MT NCO	**LCpl Bob Geelan**
Sqn Clerk	**Sig Mick Mulcaire**

3 Sqn in addition to normal commitments has been involved with the elements of 81 Sig Sqn TA who have been exercising with the Airfield Troops, ably assisted with transport and accommodation by **Sgt Pete Searle**. We recently had a visit from the TACT Team who, despite a busy programme, still found time to visit all the telemechs working at the airfields.

Stop Press: Under training by **WO2 (SSM) Terry Hughes** the SHQ element has passed its BFT under storm conditions with ease; **Maj Bob Bates** stormed in to pass with minutes to spare.

3 SQUADRON TROOP COMMANDERS CONFERENCE

OC 3 Sqn **Maj Bob Bates** decided in September that it was time he collected his Troop Commanders from the four corners of BAOR and held a Squadron Commander's Conference. Of course, the obvious place to hold such an important event was at RAF Bruggen, where OC H Tp, **Capt Keith Russell**, was tasked with setting up the day. On Monday 28 September, the Troop Commandrers from Roetgen, Wildenrath, Laarbruch and, oh yes! Gutersloh, with the added presence of OC ACPO, **Maj (TOT) Tony McMullen**, converged onto H Tp's Frog and Radiator Club at RAF Bruggen. After several hours of friendly 'sparring' the group retired for lunch, less **Capt Bill White.** He had been summoned back to Laarbruch because his canoes were missing him, after all, he had been away from them for three hours! On the way to lunch the group stopped for a photograph in front of station headquarters, RAF Bruggen.

From L to R: Capts 'Mick' Bailes (OC K Tp), 'Bill' White (OC L Tp), Majs (TOT) Tony McMullen (OC ACPO), 'Bob' Bates (OC Sqn), Capts Keith Russell (OC H Tp), Gary Mason (OC N Tp—hidden) and (TOT) Pete Shawyer (OC GTP)

NEWS FROM ROETGEN
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The second Roetgen five-a-side football competition took place on 5 July on a scorching hot day, with eight teams taking part. Roetgen fielded three teams with the others from Wildenrath Catering, RAF Police, Golf Tp, Lammersdorf FC and Zweifell Fire Station. The mixture of talent, age and experience (and that was just the team led by the FofS) ensured that the games were both fun and competitive. There were no real surprises in the first stages, and the two semi-finals were contested by Roetgen A v Lammersdorf FC, and Police Flight and Wildenrath Catering. The first game was a heard fought contest with Catering winning 1—0. the second semi-final produced the biggest shock of the day when Roetgen A knocked out the local German side with a coolly taken goal by **Sig 'Robbo' Robson**. The final was very close with both sides clearly suffering from the heat and the game was won by a single goal by Catering section to avenge their defeat in last years final. The competition was a credit to all who took part and the sportsmanship and spirit of all teams ensured that this now an important annual event. After the trophies were presented by **Capt Pete Shawyer** there was a disco and barbecue to round off a successful day.

1987 POLICE DOG TRIALS

The fourth annual Roetgen Dog Trials took place on 15 August on a very windy day with the aim of beating last years target of DM2,500 raised for the Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital. This years charity was a local home for Handicapped children in Simmerath.

Although the turnout was slightly down on the previous year the day was a success due to the hard work of all the detachment, including the wives and families. The competition was very close and first place went to **Cpl Steve Allan** with AD Ben, followed by **Cpl 'Russ' Ford** and AD KY, **Cpl Paul Johnson** and AD Mac, with fourth place going to **Cpl Vince Kerwin** and AD BA. Not only were all the spectators treated to a professional and hard fought display of Dog handling skills but they also enjoyed a host of sideshows and stalls, with a brattie stall, a crock smash, a car smash and a tea stall run by the wives club. In an attempt to increase the proceeds **SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullan** even volunteered to take a soaking in the wet-sponge stall, but as expected most people were reluctant to have a go at such a well liked and respected detachment member (except **Mrs Xanthi Blackman** and about 50 other people). At the end of the afternoon the trophies were presented by the CO, **Lt Col Ian Turner**, and everyone enjoyed a mammoth barbecue followed by the Roetgen disco.

The proceeds for the day were a magnificent DM2,813 and our thanks must go to all who helped to make the day such a success, whether by sponsorship, running stalls or simply turning up to support the detachment. A special thanks to **Cpl Dave Lomas** and **Sgt John Port** for all their work in organising the event.

3 SQUADRON
GOLF TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt (TOT) Pete Shawyer**
NCO Roetgen Tp	**SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullan**
NCO Starrnet Systems Control	**SSgt Duncan Forteath**
NCO RAF(G) Systems Control	**SSgt Steve Young**
NCO Starrnet Third Line	**SSgt Bruce Casburn**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome the following to the Troop: **SSgt Forteath, Sgts Wood, Ramsdale, McNaulty, Bates** and **Lund**.

Farewell and the best of luck in the future to: **SSgt James, Sgts Thompson, Gillard, K. Thomson, LCpl Harper** (again) and **Sig Robson.**

NEWS FROM THIRD LINE

The HQ of Golf Tp, Third Line help to maintain the static Radio Relay System on the Clutch Airfields. The job is not without its

pressures, so much so that **SSgt Bruce Casburn** has opted to go for the more laidback lifestyle of the Pay Corps. **Sgts Neville 'RD' Flintham** and **Martinl 'Barbecue' Gillard** fresh from their Staffies courses are now undergoing rehabilitation and we expect them to be capable of technical work in the near future.

OC Golf Tp, **Capt (TOT) Pete Shawyer** is especially pleased he has managed to rename the Troop 'Alpha'. He now has an excuse for being on the Golf Course although you may find it hard to see him as he has a tendency to wear camouflage clothing whilst golfing.

H TROOP (RAF BRUGGEN)
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Keith Russell**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Steve Hilton**
NCO Tech	**Sgt Bill Stadius**
Projects Sgt	**Cpl Derek Carman**
Maint Sgt	**Sgt 'Pip' Piper**
MT Cpl	**Cpl 'Geordie' Brown**
Q Tp	**LCpl Steve Brice**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

H Tp would like to extend a warm welcome to **Sgt 'Pip' Piper**, his wife **Wendy** and their two boys, **Nicholas** and **David; LCpl Steve Brice, Sig Darren Hilton** and his wife **Gwyneth, Mrs Sue Brough** our new Secretary and last but not least **Sig Barry Butterfield**.

We also sadly have to say farewell to several well-liked members of the Troop—**Sgt Rod Hicks** and family on retirement to Civ Div, **Sgt Keith Thomson** and family who are spending their last tour with the ACIO at Wakefield. **Cpl Pete Atkinson** (promoted to Sergeant on posting) who is leaving for sunny Sennelager, **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson**, who has defected to L Tp at RAF Laarbruch, **Sig 'Dusty' Miller** and **'Doctor' Edge** who have both returned to the Regiment at Wildenrath, and finally **Mrs Sue Pierce**, our outgoing Secretary. Farewell, all will be missed.

DINING OUT

Thursday 12 November saw the Regimental Dining out of **Sgt Rod Hicks** after 22 years of service and a Pongo night for **Sgt Keith Thomson** who is leaving on posting.

Everyone attending the dinner was looking forward to an enjoyable evening and all was running smoothly. However, after everyone had been picked up by transport, the driver made an unexpected detour and parked outside a local schnell imbiss. This was not quite what we had expected. **Cpls McLay, Tadman** and **Sig Fitt** were waiting there to serve sherry and to present **Sgt Rod Hicks** with a small memento from all the members of the Troop. This proved to be a success so will now be an H Tp tradition.

From L to R: Cpl 'Scotty' McLay, SSgts Steve Hilton, 'Dick' Taylor, FSgt (C/T) Rod Lovett, Sgts 'Pip' Piper, 'Bill' Stadius, Steve Jackson, Capt Keith Russell and Sgt Rod Hicks

CONGRATULATIONS

All members of the Troop would like to congratulate **Cpl Neil McKenzie** on his marriage to **Grizelda**, on 28 November, near Soest. We wish them both every happiness for the future and welcome **Mrs McKenzie** to the Troop.

The Troop would also like to congratulate **Sig Andy Rushworth** and his wife **Rena** on the birth of their son **Martin Andrew**, who weighed in at 9lb 14½oz.

ORIENTEERING

Friday 20 November was to be an historic day for H Tp. We had been invited by K Tp to partake in an orienteering competition along with 855 Sig Tp (TA) which was to finish with a games evening and a few beers. However, RAF Bruggen being more convivial to orienteering, H Tp invited K and 855 Tps to Bruggen.

With all three Troops assembled, the men were split into 20 teams of three for the orienteering (one man from each Troop) just to ensure that H Tp didn't have any home advantage. After a fierce competition, the winning team consisted of **Sgt 'Pip' Piper** (H Tp), **Sgt Geoff Gardner** (K Tp) and **Sgt John Dekkers** (855 Sig Tp (TA)) who were later presented with a suitable trophy. The evening games competition was also a great success, with Tug-o-War etc. The eventual winners were K Tp, after some doubtful scoring. H Tp were runners up and 855 Sig Tp (TA) also ran.

MILITARY TRAINING AFTERNOON

On Wednesday 11 November **Cpl 'Geordie' Brown**, H Tp's good-looking MT Corporal was tasked by **SSgt Steve Hilton** to organise a driver training afternoon for the Troop. So, to start the afternoon, the Troop was given a German tick test to fail, which was done quite easily, then **Cpl 'Geordie' Brown** gave a lecture on vehicle care and maintenance, cross-country driving and convoy driving. After the lecture, it was down to hill 60 for an hour's cross-country driving and a course was set up and **Cfn 'Smudge' Smith** with co-driver **Sig 'potential blue job' Al Price** got round in the quickest time but almost tipped over the Landrover. Everyone enjoyed themselves, even **Sig Andy Rushworth,** who broke his Landrover (accidentally).

THE ONGOING SAGA OF H TROOP'S BLOWN FIBRE DEMONSTRATION

Once again the H Tp demo team was tasked with a display of the blown fibre system. The different this time was that it involved selling the system to the remainder of the NATO countries and British Telecom felt they could not handle the responsibility. Because of the enormity of the situations, it was not only **Cpl Atkinson's** golfing career that was on the line that a specialised team was called for.

The Senior Comms Engineer at Bruggen, **SSgt Steve Hilton** was called for together with his deputy, **Cpl Pete Atkinson** and fusion master, **Cpl 'Nige' Dix**. This high-powered team under the experienced eye of the OC successfully completed the task, much to the delight of **Col R. D. K. Thompson OBE**, Comd 4 Sig Gp and **Lt Col I. Turner**, CO 21 Sig Regt and to the relief of the BT engineers.

Following lunch the entourage returned to H Tp's Fog and Radiator to repay their thanks to the Troop workforce.

K TROOP

The Troop has undergone a change in personalities, and we would like to say goodbye to **SSgt Chris 'Q' Biddlecombe** who moves over to stack blankets in HQ Sqn, **Sig 'Mick' Ryan** on his return to Northern Ireland. **Sig Steve Bagguley** is off to Belize for a tan and **Sig Bill Simpson** is off to civvy street. We welcome **SSgt 'Dick' Taylor** and **Eileen**, and hope you enjoy your tour with K Tp; also a warm welcome back to **Sig Phil Gash** on his return from 'Boxing' Tp.

The Troop was recently treated to a Blown Fibre Optic Cable Demo at RAF Bruggen, this was closely followed by an orienteering competition between teams chosen from H Tp, K Tp and 855 Sig Tp and 81 Sig Sqn (V), who were out on their two week summer camp. The winning team consisted of **Sgt (RSM) Geoff Gardner, Sgt 'Pip' Piper** and **Cpl 'let me at them' Duffy**. Our thanks go to H Tp for the buffet and sorry to have knocked you into second place at bar games lads. Our thanks go to 855 Sig Tp and 81 Sig Sqn (V) for their help over the last 14 days.

L TROOP
LIFE AFTER EXERCISE BOLTHOLE

Ex Bolthole was a six month period when all our aircraft were detached to other airfields while our runway and dispersal surfaces were refurbished. L Tp made the most of this period completing over 2,000 man days of maintenance work which has significantly improved the comms fit on the Station. We have also managed to host many sporting events, not least of which was the inter-Troop Golf competition in which the two strike Airfield Troop Commanders **Capts Bill White** and **Keith Russell** were able to win a second hand ball from one of the holiday airport Commanders, **Capts Gary Mason** and OC Golf Tp, **Pete Shawyer**.

Our projects team also managed to build a splendid Troop bar directed by **Sgt Tony Conlan** and **Cpl Jed Bridgeford**. This was duly opened by Comd Comms BAOR on his recent visit to the Troop and is proving quite a success during its user trial period.

Sadly Ex Bolthole has come to an end and we are now constantly deafened by the roar of Tornado Aircraft making the most of their new runway. Of course we must now adjust to the pressure being back on. A fairly typical day in the life of the Troop was Wednesday 14 October which went something like this:-

0800 hrs: OC returns from BAOR Windsurfing Championships.

Comd Comms BAOR opening the new Troop Bar, 'L' Dazo's, with Cpl Jed Bridgeford an Sig Eddie Postlethwaite eager to test it while SSgt 'Mick' Denny can sense what will follow

0815 hrs: Troop informed Squadron Commander and new SSM coming for a visit, ETA 0930 hrs (quick get the account and secure docs checked).

0830 hrs: Troop nips home to collect woolly pullovers.

0900 hrs: Bramis the main Station computer's line reported faulty.

0939 hrs: Troop informed Secretary of State for Defence due to arrive for a Tornado flight, then to see Bramis in action.

0945 hrs: OC Sqn and SSM arrive and are inspected by **Frau Busse** (The Troop Clerk).

1000 hrs: CinC RAF G arrives to accompany Secretary of State (System Controller, **LCpl Stevie Brown** and faults crew **Sig Kev Guest** now getting warm under the collar—must be the pullovers).

1015 hrs: RSIT Team arrive (NCO Techs **Sgt Colin Brown** starts panicking).

1030 hrs: QM and Stores Inspection team arrive, **Tp SSgt 'Mick' Denny** and Storeman **LCpl 'Johno' Johnstone** go all quiet.

1040 hrs: **Frau Busse** sends OC Tp for haircut (and can't understand why so much fuss is being made).

1100 hrs: Bramis back in OK—flap over (only the QM, RSIT and Sqn Comd to worry about now).

pm: A relaxed, well groomed OC goes off to Wildenrath to dine out Comd Comms BAOR.

One good result of the return of our aircraft is that **LCpl 'Johno' Johnstone** has been selected to fly a battle sortie in a Tornado Aircraft next week. We believe he will be the first soldier to do so.

Cpl B. J. Forbes Wilson works in a pit refurbishing underground cable joints

As at the other end Sig Eddie Postlethwaite can run the jumpers on the krone blocks with his eyes closed

LCpl Stevie Brown has to sit in Systems receiving all the complaints from our customers during the re-wire

N TROOP RAF GUTERSLOH
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Gary Mason BEM**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Nigel Grant**
Techs	**Sgt Keith Carter**
	Sgt Phil Hill
Tele Mechs	**Sgt Steve Gerrish**
	Sgt Dave James

The Troop is please to announce the following promotions. **LCpl Trev Inman** to Corporal: At present detached to Ascension Island. **LCpl Tom Smith** to Corporal: NCO MT section. **Sig 'Lucky' Luckhurst** to Lance Corporal and **Cfn Sloan** to Lance Corporal (our pet REME Mech). And to the status of 'Pad': **SSgt Nigel Grant** who married **Jackie Wright** on 17 October in Norwich.

One recent departure from the Troop was that of **Cpl 'Ada' Cook**. He is spending his last few months at Bulford before his final move to civvy street.

The Troop has also received a replacement for **Sgt Rob Frape** (the resident RR Tech, now sunning himself in sunny Italy) in the form of **Cpl Simon Metcalfe** who joins us from Northern Ireland whilst the MT section's ranks are to be swelled by **Sig Collyer,** accompanied by his wife **Barbara**.

We say farewell to **LCpl Sloan** who is bound for a tour of duty with a 'glorious' Infantry Regiment. In the short time he has been with us his hard work not only in MTSF but in assisting **Cpl Tom Smith** in keeping our rolling stock rolling has been of great value to the Troop. We are all in agreement that he has not been a bad stick for a 'spanner munipulator'.

Once again N Tp can boost a RAF (G) BAOR Champion and once again it is **Sgt Phil Hill** who retains his 100cc National Karting title. This alongside his second place in the RAF(G) Championship and a third place in the Akrotiri Road Race during the 1987 season.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

RHQ PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col Jerry Barrett**
2IC	**Maj Charles Kemp**
Ops Offr	**Maj Bob Binham**
Adjt	**Capt Gordon Rafferty**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Trevor Johnson**
Supt Clk	**WO1 (SC) Roger Iredale**
Ops YofS	**WO1 (YofS) Brian Greenwood**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

The Regiment has been quite busy recently, being committed to Ex Keystone. Although our task was to produce the main umpire and control communications, there was the inevitable fighting patrol mounted and the result of these inter-nodal white-on-white contacts will very soon become legion.

Shortly after returning from this, all the Regiments' Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs underwent an intensive NBC updating period of two days. Here **Capt Tim Wadey** was ably supported by the Training Wing staff. This teaching was put into practice on Ex Sweet Martini, a Regimental training exercise, with a flavour of NBC, which was not to everyone's taste!

The series of visits continued, with one by **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE,** Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps. During this visit the Brigadier presented prizes to a platoon of US soldiers from III US Corps, visiting the Regiment after Ex Reforger. Not long after this we also had our first visit by the new Corps Commander, **Lt Gen P. A. Inge**. We now look forward to the 'exercise free' period (for some at least—sorry 1 Sqn) over the festive season, and eagerly await next year's round of exercises.

LINE TROOP

EXERCISE KEYSTONE

Regiment line packet left Lippstadt for Oldendorf Kaserne on Sunday 27 September.

After a week of solid graft under the wary eye of **Sgt Strefford** the Kaserne and surrounding areas were ready for the influx of staff vehicles, their crews and support, heralding the beginning of the exercise in earnest. The refreshment tent had a subset, the messes were in comms—only the portaloos were left out!

Line dets worked as far away as Hildesheim and Hameln before returning to Lippstadt on 25 October.

TACTICAL INTERFACE INSTALLATIONS

In a recent shuffle of vehicles between 4 (Shock Army) Sqn and 1 Sqn, the TIIs have rejoined **2Lt Prior** after his move to the Line Tp. We also welcome **SSgt Dave Hall** and we look forward to a smooth integration of TII operators with the linemen.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robin Cuthbert**
2IC	**Capt Stuart Gray-Cowan**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Derek Brown**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Alec Kennedy**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan**
OC A Tp	**2Lt Graham Deans**
OC C Tp	**2Lt Jim Prior**

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paul Gorford**
2IC	**Capt Tim Wadey**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Maurice Harkin**
Acting FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Archie Malcolm**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Pete Barron**
OC D Tp	**Lt George Odling**
OC E Tp	**Lt Neil Longley**
OC F Tp	**2Lt Tony Urwin**

AMERICAN VISIT

The Regiment had the pleasure of hosting a platoon from the 3 (US) Sig Bde after Ex Reforger. **Lt Gary Hennesy**, the platoon commander and **Sgt Foreman** his platoon Sergeant found a tight social calendar awaiting them. Whilst looking at the programme **Lt Hennesy** was quoted as saying 'Geeze, this is real heavy'. A darts match with 2 and 1 Sqn's Wives Clubs was the highlight of the social scene organised by **Shona Gorford**. The American teams found the going difficult and were unfortunately defeated by superior darts and some cunning distribution of alcohol.

Socialising was a small part of the visit and the Americans had an opportunity to see Ptarmigan on Ex Look Around. Some looked in awe at the sophisticated equipment finding it most impressive. **LCpl 'Buffalo' Jackson** was so impressed he decided a letter to the President was required.

LCpl Ed Hudson and **LCpl Bob Hicks** were tasked with putting together a physical exercise programme the finale of which would be march and shoot competition. First attempted was the CFT, appreciated little by the American Platoon who don't usually do such strenuous exercise. However they completed the course with a few red faces.

The March and Shoot Competition organised by **Lt Neil Longley** included the assault course and a shoot. The American platoon enjoyed the day and won the Trophy, presented later by Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig Waugh**. All in all it was a very enjoyable week which benefited the Americans and British alike. We look forward to the next time.

The CO, Lt Col Jerry Barrett presents Lt Gary Hennesy (US Army) with a Regimental plaque at the end of his Platoon's visit to Lippstadt

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Mike Hanrahan**
2IC	**Capt Alex Wilson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Brian Cullen**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Nigel Samm**
Yofs	**SSgt (YofS) Kevin Parker**
OC G Tp	**2Lt Phil Harlow**
OC H Tp	**Lt John Fraser**
OC I Tp	**2Lt Tim Carmichael**

PAGE TROPHY COMPETITION

Despite the tremendous pressures of a heavy workload, including RSIT, vehicle servicing, Ex Keystone and a 'fastball' callout, 3 Sqn still managed to organise an impressive array of sporting genius for the daunting Page Trophy.

Spearheaded by an invincible cohort of rugby players (with, of course, the usual liberal sprinkling of demi-gods), and supported in depth by a motley crew of hockey, football, squash, volleyball and tug-of-war participators, the team was confident of doing well. Though the level of brilliance undoubtedly varied, the fighting spirit was present everywhere. The briefing was short, the message clear and the implications obvious: 'Beat 4 Sqn!'

And so, battle was joined. After a hard fought three days of sport, when competitors and referees alike ignored rain, wind and Flanders-style mud, the Squadron emerged victorious. The rugby team achieved a clean-sweep, without conceding a point, the volleyballers also won, and the Squadron came second in every other event.

Our thanks go to **2Lt Tim Carmichael** (overall co-ordinator and bluffer in chief), and to all the referees, umpires and judges (10 packs are in the post . . .). (Obviously written by an impartial member of 3 Sqn! and not a rugby player)

Comd 1 (BR) Corps meeting members of 3 Sqn when he visited the Regiment to view our Ptarmigan equipment
L to R: Sgt Chris Hardwidge, SSgt Bill Hitchens, 2Lt Tim Carmichael, Comd 1 (BR) Corps Lt Gen P. A. Inge, OC 3 Sqn Maj Mike Hanrahan

4 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Rob Carter**
2IC	**Capt Ian Dudding**
SSM	**Wo2 (SSM) Bill Hutton**
Acting FofS	**SSgt Mick Uttley**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Bill Ruthven**
OC J Tp	**2Lt Bill Fathers**
OC K Tp	**2 Lt Roger Cotterell**
OC L Tp	**2Lt David Drinkall**

4 (JACQUES) SQUADRON

This last month has been quite an upsetting one for our OC, **Maj Rob Carter**. Firstly, during a game of cards, he carelessly lost 14 soldiers to 1 Sqn. Then he sent all his finest sportsmen on courses. or leave, timed to coincide with the Page Trophy, methinks.This can only mean one of three things: He is being posted to 1 Sqn. This was the only way he could get into the Squadron rugby seven's team. He is two tokens short of a pop up toaster.

Whatever the reason, 4 Sqn haven't fared this badly since 1520. On the other hand the members of 4 Sqn are plum tuckered out after RSIT, CO's Day, Ex Keystone and Lima Tp's breaking up party which seems to have been going on since before 1520. We wish them well in their new Squadron.

Meanwhile the rest of us are playing musical Troops, in this game you all stand up, mill about and when the music stops rush over to the mail holders only to discover that you've been moved to another Troop.

CROSS COUNTRY

At the time of writing the days are growing shorter and colder, the Christmas festivities are fast approaching, and the cross country season is well into its stride. With six races run of the 15 planned for the 3 Armd Div league the Regiment has proved that it can easily hold off the strongest opposition and has taken a firm stance at the top of the league table. As in previous years, however, our squad relies heavily on the strength of the Nordic skiers, and a typical league race would see the RQMS, **WO2 Les Wood**, as the only non-skier among the top eight scorers!

Despite this it is heartening to report the emergence of several younger members of the Regiment who are willing to sacrifice their lunchtimes to tread the roads and farm tracks around Lippstadt; and with the skiers having departed for 'on-snow' training, it is on the ability of these relative newcomers that our success or failure now depends. The team has also been augmented by the recent arrival of a seasoned but out-of-condition athlete in the shape of **WO1 (ASM) Alec Campbell REME**, who is already showing a rapid return to form after some gruelling training sessions.

The squad now faces some tough opposition in the BAOR championship which is being run this year over the strength-sapping sand of Verden. As always the event will produce a high quality competition—one in which the top teams and individuals will all be giving 100 per cent—and it will provide our young team with valuable experience of high-level competition.

Moving from Regimental level to Corps level, **Sgt Bill Bailey** of 1 ADSR is to be congratulated both on his recent promotion and on his appointment as BAOR captain for the current season. The latter is due recognition of the fact that the Corps have some of the strongest runners in the Army today, and hopefully this will be further illustrated by a Corps victory in the BAOR Inter-Corps championship in April. The main opposition on that day will, without question, be provided by the RAOC, whose minor unit team of FOD Dulmen is virtually a Corps squad. This concentration of athletes provides an edge that we will find hard to match. However, it is encouraging to see a strong team blossoming in 1 ADSR, and the inauguration this season of a Royal Signals BAOR Inter-Unit championship in March should provide both the motivation to train hard right through the season and also a useful indication of late season form to aid selection of the Royal Signals squad.

SQUASH

November saw the Regimental Squash Team make the long trek to the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, to take part in the Corps individual and team Squash Championships. Led by **WO2 (SSM) Bill Hutton** our No 1 player, the team consisted of **LCpl Dave Gallager** (No 2), **SSgt Dave Hall** (No 3) and **Sig Pete Lund** as reserve.

Good wins over 7 Sig Regt and 210 Sig Sqn put us in the final against the Harrogate College Team. Fate was with us at this stage in that the College's No 1 player, **Cpl Tom Pollard**, had just been selected to represent the Combined Services Team that very week. **Capt John Newman** (Harrogate's Team Captain) seemed to suffer a little at this point and we went on to win the final quite convincingly.

Some of the individual performances included:

WO2 (SSM) Bill Hutton	Runner-up in the Over 35's
SSgt Dave Hall	Plate Winner
LCpl Dave Gallager	Runner-up in the Super Plate
Sig Pete Lund	The Ronald McDonald Award for eating three Big Macs in one lunchtime.

EXERCISE CLEAR WATER II

Ex Clear Water was a Sub Aqua Adventurous Training Exercise conducted by six Regimental members of the Lippstadt Station Sub Aqua Club. It was sponsored by the British Outward Bound Centre (Norway) and conducted in and around the Kristiansand Fjord, over the period 20 July-4 August.

BOBC (Norway) allocated a number of time slots annually for Special Expeditions of which this was one. Much of the required equipment is provided on site and also in our case, the accommodation in the form of a cabin on the Fjord. Once on site, expeditions are left very much to their own devices since the required expertise must form part of the group. Transport to and from Norway is a routine affair under the management of 69 Sqn RCT.

The aim of this expedition was to introduce newly trained novice divers to open water diving with a view to progressing toward the BSAC Sport Diver qualification. Additionally current Sport Divers were progressed towards the BSAC Dive Leader qualification.

This involved a number of arduous open water rescue skills and under water navigation exercises for both groups supported by all the relevant lectures in accordance with the BSAC syllabus.

Our daily routine consisted of two dives interspersed with lectures and small boat handling drills, the first dive usually at about 0830 hrs at sites up to three miles distance, by inflatable boat. As diving progressed and experience was gained we were able to dive on a Norwegian wreck sunk during the Second World War (1943) which lay in a depth of water varying from 15 to 36m (48 to 120ft). Several artefacts were found on this wreck over a number of days including several unbroken corked bottles of (we believe) alcholic beverage. One was opened on the surface and the resultant smell was so pungent, it was immediately evicted along with its (Scottish) explorer, **Cpl Brian Clark**.

Had this been a survival exercise, we certainly would not have gone hungry. Each day's diving resulted in a hefty catch of crabs and flatfish and could have included some large lobster but for the legal penalties involved.

Several qualifying dives were notched up for our progressive students, including one in response to a request from the BOBC staff to search for, locate and recover an outboard engine lost in an inland tributary by some British holiday makers. The water was murky, smelly and visibility very poor. An underwater, roped swimline search was organised and on the third attempt **LCpl 'Ginge' Dyson**, groping in the dark located the skeg of the engine which was largely sunk in the soft silt bottom. A bouyant lift brought the engine back to the surface and it was subsequently returned to the owners. In order not to offend, the party accepted a crate of beer for services rendered.

At the end of two weeks, much experience had been gained by all grades of diver not to mention the varied, though largely excellent cuisine produced as each member of the party took it in turns to demonstrate his catering prowess.

This was our second trip to Norway which undoubtedly offers concentrated though varied diving conditions, ideal for training purposes. Each diver logged up an average of 26 dives in this jellyfish infested fjord.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

NEWS FROM REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
EXERCISE ABLE ARCHER 87

For the first time ever, the whole of RHQ and the UAO deployed on exercise as 'RHQ Tp' during Ex Able Archer 87. The aim was to conduct normal RHQ functions and war time documentation in the field, also to give all staff some experience in battlefield routine. **Capt Paul King,** (the Adjutant) took control of the 'motley crew' and despite a slow start, soon had everyone cammed up and ready for anything; (well almost . . .).

During the exercise, we received our first visit from the new Com NORTHAG **Gen Sir Brian Kenney KCB, CBE**. We also said farewell to **2Lt Alison Gordon** WRAC/R Signals who, having completed her attachment, returned to UK for her Troop Commanders Course at Blandford.

Gen Sir Brian Kenney visits Switch B during Ex Able Archer 87 (*Left to Right*—Lt Col Chubb, OC 1 Sqn, Capt Gilchrist and WO2 (SSM) Jackson

SPORTS

In October the Adjutant led the Regimental Canoe team to victory at the Army Surf Canoeing Championships at Saunton Sands. His next goal was the BAOR White Water Championships at Hildesheim.

Not to be outdone, the Assistant Adjutant (able assisted by disc clk **Cpl Street**) has taken over as OIC Cross-country. In addition to running in regular RCZ/RAF(G) league events, the team has also completed in international fixtures, such as the race at Geilenkirchen on 16 October 1987, where the ladies picked up both winner and runner-up medals.

International Cross-country Race (7km) Geilenkirchen

MEDALS GALORE!

Thursday 19 November 1987 was a very special day for three members of the Regiment. **Sgts Tate** and **Rennie** received their Long Service and Good Conduct (LS&GC) Medals and **WO1 (FofS) Johnson** was awarded the Royal Signals Institution Silver Medal. This was presented on behalf of the Royal Signals Institution by Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies.**

The ceremony took place at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and was attended by the Commander Squadron Commanders and all Warrant Officers and SNCOs. The photographs below tell the story . . .

Maj Gen Davies congratulates Sgt Tate on the award of the LS&GC

Comd Comms presents Sgt Rennie with his LS&GC medal

WO1 (FofS) P. F. Johnson receives the Silver Medal of the Royal Signals Institution from Maj Gen P. R. Davies

FAREWELLS/WELCOMES/CONGRATULATIONS

All members of RHQ bid farewell to **Maj John Hincks**, the Dep Comd, and welcome **Maj Bob Drake**, who joins us from 1 Sqn. We also say goodbye and good luck to **Capt Paul King**, the Adjt, who leaves on promotion to 16 Sig Regt, and welcome **Capt Paul Wilkin** who joins us from 2 Sqn. Finally, many congratulations to **Lt Jim Hindle**, our former Regimental Yeoman who departs for Northern Ireland on commissioning. We welcome his replacement **WO1 Williamson** and family.

SUPPORT SQUADRON
UNIT ADMIN OFFICE

On 4 November 1987, the UAO deployed on Ex Able Archer. (Quite a shock to the system for all the Base Rats). On hearing the news, **WPte 'Yuppy' Bird** was heard to say 'Yippee, OK Ya!' The exercise went quite well, under the leadership and command of **Capt P. King** (Adjt), until the very last day when 'it' happened! At dawn, RHQ Tp was attacked by a Troop of SASS (Salvation Army Snatch Squad) soldiers from CP 28/Diamond. Their leader was **Lt C. 'Shoosh or they'll hear us' Knipe WRAC**. The aim of this attack was to cause panic and confusion amongst the 'shiny-bums'. However, the Paymaster, **Capt 'Yawn—what's going on here?' MacDonald-Evans** of Denovan, remained cool and calm, even after the loss of his pills and medication. Can someone please tell **LCpl 'SAS' Jeffries RPC** that the defenders and not the attackers call 'stand-to'.

MIKE TROOP
AN EXPLANATION OF—SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION EQUIPMENT (STE)

Equipment: In general, the equipment is similar to a public address system, but instead of the speech being amplified through a loud speaker, it can be heard through individual headsets.

The system can accommodate up to 150 listeners and each speaker's voice can be simultaneously translated into three other languages via interpreters (normally civilians). Each individual listener can select which language to listen to and can adjust the volume via the individual control box. The system can also accommodate extra microphones so that members of the audience can put questions to the speakers which are then translated simultaneously.

In Action: So far, this year, the STE team has done five separate conferences ranging from 20 minutes to five days in length which were:-

Ex Markefast: An annual NORTHAG Engineers Conference which was held this year in May at Wezep in the Netherlands and hopefully next year will be held at Fort Worth, Texas. Rumour has it that **Capt R. J. Good** (Tech Adjt) has started reading the operating instructions for the STE equipment.

Press Conference: Conducted by **Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB** and **Gen Saint** (Comd 3 US Corps), held at the Allied Press Information Centre, Ostenholz, during Ex Reforger 87.

Press Conference: Conducted by **Gen John R. Galvin** (Saceur) in Fallingbostel.

Press Conference: Held by **Dr Manfred Worner** (Bundesminister) during Ex Reforger 87.

Press Conference: Bundeskanzler Kohl and **Prime Minister Martens** (Belgium) held in Porz, Koln.

As far as we know 28 Sig Regt is the only British Regiment to use it, and the only NATO Unit holding simultaneous translation equipment. So keep the jobs rolling in please.

1 SQUADRON

In the months of October and November the Squadron had two main events, one of them being the Squadron bowling night on 27 October and the other being Ex Able Archer.

The ten pin bowling night was a close fought contest which was eventually won by our acting OC Sqn, **Capt Dave Gilchrist**. The ladies prize went to **WCpl Denise Parry**. The runners up were **Sgt Guy Whitfield** in the men's competition and **Mrs Jenny Jackson** in the women's competition.

Ex Able Archer saw Alpha Tp move just down the road to Egelsberg and Bravo Tp deployed to the familiar location of Coesfeld. The exercise went very well and according to plan, (despite Bravo Tp wagons breaking down on the autobahn and Alpha Tp shuttling box bodies from the Regiment to the exercise location). During the exercise there were one or two technical problems, but in general everything worked well and the 'staff' was happy. The only sad note was **Sgt Andy Le Billon**'s unfortunate accident which resulted in several successful operations to save his finger.

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS
ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Tp has had to say goodbye to **Capt Bob Dobson**, who has left us to attend his 'Junior Generals' course. The Troop is now in the hands of **Lt Debbie Wheatley Price.** We would like to say the best of luck to both **Debbie** and **Bob** in their new jobs. Also missing is **Sig Bob 'Ghandi' Garlick** and **Cpl Dave Butler** both of whom are now posted to sunnier climes, 233 Sig Sqn and 8 Sig Regt respectively.

New arrivals in the Troop are both minor members of the Regiment and our congratulations go to **Sgt Chris Harley** and wife **Sue** who have produced a baby boy and **Sig 'Scouse' Parr** and his wife **Jacqueline** who have also produced a baby boy.

Stop press: Must just mention our other most welcome new arrivals, **WPtes Sara Lewis, Debbie Beams** and **Rachel Turner.**

EXERCISE ABLE ARCHER

November saw Oscar Tp, with a few vehicles and men from Papa for luck, lined up ready to deploy on Ex Able Archer. The morning was soon livened up by the OC **Maj 'Where's my green brain' Bowering** carrying out 100% SOP kit checks and the new Squadron 2IC **Capt 'We're getting there' Peel** checking all the mundane things like maps, 'maps what maps' and 'convoy lights, we don't use them, correction, we didn't use them'. After an uneventful deployment (six miles) we arrived in location. The location proved to be a very tight squeeze, but the **SSM 'Master Driver' Roberts** came to the fore and guided all the vehicles in, (it has been said that some of the drivers are still wedged in their cabs). Once all the Staff vehicles arrived (two days later) comms were soon established thanks to **Sgt Gordon Hitchen** and his gallant band of linemen and 2,400m of Lightweight Quad, 1,800m of 26 pair and 1,500m of P3, QM please note. Despite efforts by the Directing Staff who ordered various equipment failures comms in the AWHQ were good throughout the exercise.

The traditional 2 Sqn presentation took place at Endex with a complete Det, Ops Charlie, winning the 'Golden Blanket' award; **Sgt 'Soft shoe shuffle' Hope** the 'Hook Line and Sinker' award; and **WO2 (FofS) 'Who me?' Wilson** following in his brother's footsteps by winning the 'Tact and Diplomacy' award for calling a General a horse.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

The hello's and goodbye's are too numerous to mention, but to all those who have joined us recently welcome, and to those who have left Bon Voyage and best wishes.

BRAVO TROOP

Bravo Tp has been having some memorable leaving parties for the following: **SSgt Linda Cooper, Cpls 'Ginge' Parker, Billy Grierson, Tony 'Flub' Fahey, Sig Allan Burns, 'Paddy' Lavery, Chris Birch** and **Mark 'Roly' Relton.**

Some new arrivals include **Sgts Dave Marshall, John Gaskell, Cpl George Burns, Sig Culham, Mangan, WPtes Elaine Tuff, Michelle Collyer** and **Vicky Reeve**. We would like to welcome you all and wish you all the best in the future.

Some of the Troop seniors were kept busy with the visit of Battleaxe Tp 11 Sig Regt. **2Lt 'still the junior' Chattaway** and **Sgt 'Bugsy' Jennings** managed to arrange a programme for the visit that was interesting and varied. With the help of **Sgt Whitfield** and **LCpl Gordon Roberts** they kept the Junior Signalmen busy with visits to the RMP at JHQ, 74 (The Battleaxe) Battery at Dortmund and the RAF at RAF Wildenrath.

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Andy Bowering**
2IC	**Capt Brian Peel**
OC Oscar	**Capt Tim Pender-Johns**
OC Papa	**Capt Carol Lee**
SSM	**WO2 Martin Roberts**
YofS	**WO2 Pete Wykes**
FofS	**WO2 Paul Wilson BEM**
	SSgt Ray Wilson

Comd Comms meets WO2 (SSM) Roberts—2 Sqn

BAOR WHITE WATER RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

No sooner was the surf canoeing finished than training began for the BAOR White Water Racing Championships. This required a new approach, new skills and even higher standards of fitness. To race for 5km down river in a racing canoe is similar to completing a 20 minute weight-lifting race. The multi-gym became a familiar sight and every lunch time was dedicated to canoeing training on a nearby canal.

On 18 November 1987, having completed a compact and exhausting training programme, the teams travelled to Hildesheim for the competition. The race took place on the River Innerste which runs through Hildesheim town centre, and incorporates the man-made slalom course. For the individual competition the water level was low and the race was very much a 'flat-water slog' except for the one short section of white water. All of our canoeists did well and the novices dominated their competition class: **LCpl Dave Cox** won the slalom individual prize, **Cpl 'Scouse' Swain** was runner-up and **Cpl 'Mal' McCallum** was fourth.

In the team competition the water was much higher which made for a more interesting race. Our success was repeated and the Novice Team consisting of **Cpl 'Scouse' Swain, LCpl Dave Cox** and **Sig Mark Coulson** won the BAOR Novice Team Trophy. In the open competition the team of **Capt Paul King, Cpls Nick Hawkins** and **Paul Dickinson** were narrowly defeated by 16 Sig Regt and 4 Armd Div Tpt Regt, thus taking third place.

There is still a chance for revenge, however, for next week we travel to the UK for the Army White Water Championships on the river Swale in Yorkshire.

STOP PRESS:

We came second to 16 Sig Regt in the Army White Water Championships.

VISIT OF DWRAC

On Wednesday 21 October **Brig S. P. Nield ADC** DWRAC visited Victor Tp. On arrival she was met by the Troop Commander **Capt Andy Harkins** and the 2IC **WO1 June Skelton**.

After receiving a brief on the Troop employment DWRAC toured the Joint NORTHAG/TWOATAF Communication Centre. The first port of call was the Commcen where she met **Sgt Val Murray, Cpl Sally Oldridge, Ptes Michelle Bainbridge, Melanie Bird, Debbie Corbett** and **Sig Brian Woodfine**.

Next she was given a brief by **Sgt Mark Donaldson** and our two resident WRAC Technicians **Cpls Jill Boddie** and **Sharon O'Neill**. She then went on to the Telephone Exchange and met **Sgt Joy Phipps, Cpl Kim Roberton, LCpls Karen Freeman, Claire Mutter** and **Pte Lorraine Charnock** plus two newly posted in Privates who were only with the Troop for a short training period prior to being employed in the Regiment. The final destination was to the Commcen Restroom where the night shift was waiting to meet her. There was also a pleasant surprise in store for everyone when the DWRAC promoted **LCpl Jill MacKay** to Corporal.

That same evening a Buffet Supper was held in the PMC Club Rheindahlen Garrison, which the CO **Lt Col Brian Chubb,** all Squadron Commanders and WRAC from the Regiment attended. It was a most relaxed and enjoyable evening and although it only lasted for two hours the DWRAC managed to speak to each of the 54 persons present before she was whisked away to attend another function.

The White Helmets

The White Helmets

BERLIN

29 Sig Regt
BFPO 45

Berlin's 750th anniversary celebrations caused a marked increase in an already hectic summer schedule for members of the Regiment. Events such as the Queen's Birthday Parade and Allied Forces Day Parade have been well documented. It would be very easy to forget that routine tasks, peculiar to the Regiment's location, must still be performed. 'Eye Witness' accounts of two of them follow:-

FLAG TOURS

Report by Sgt Elliott

For those who have not been fortunate enough to have been posted to Berlin and are therefore uninitiated in the art of Flag Touring, an explanation might help. Flag Tours are a minimum five hour 'excursion' around the Soviet Sector of Berlin. Soviet barracks are observed and the illegal East German military camps come under similar scrutiny. These camps are illegal because, under the Four Power Agreement signed at the end of the Second World War, no German Troops (either East or West) are permitted to be stationed within Berlin.

A crew of four Regimental Warsaw Pact Recognition experts and and RCT driver drive around in a rather distinctive black Range Rover and 'fly the flag', in this case a 3in × 5in MT version. The aim is to exercise the Allies' right of unhindered access to the Soviet Sector and at least one Flag Tour vehicle travels through Checkpoint Charlie every day of the year. Occasionally attempts to gain a little local intelligence appear to be too provoking to the 'Vopos', the people's police, and car chases can ensue. However the green and white Trabant or Wartburg is often no match for the Range Rover.

Normally the Regiment is tasked with two Flag tours a month and this year, by lucky coincidence, one fell upon East Germany's Independence Day. The 'highlight' of the day is a massive parade which keeps the flag tour on its toes.

The parade provided our small nucleus of gallant heroes with an Alladin's Cave of photographs, whilst **Sgt 'BI' Elliott, Cpl 'Paddy' Irwin** and **Cpl 'Love you Herbert' Ashley** followed T72s down streets to the railway slidings.

After 22 hours esconced in a Range Rover, including a rather static four hours surrounded by Vopos, who objected when we 'inadvertently' parked outside a military gate, our intrepid warriors returned to camp to fill out their 1771s.

FAREWELL VISIT—COMD COMMS BAOR

This Autumn Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen Yeoman** paid a farewell visit to the Regiment and to 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt here in Berlin.

Lunch in the Stadium Club was preceeded by a Medal Presentation Ceremony, during which **Cpl 'Paddy' Irwin** was presented with the LS & GC. At the end of the presentation the Cushion Orderly, **Cpl Mike Cole** was commended by Comd Comms upon his bearing and offered a reward—three tapes! Congratulations **Sgt Cole**.

In the evening a supper was held in the Warrant Officer's and Sergeants' Mess attended by the Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs. After a very pleasant, relaxed evening **Maj Gen Yeoman** left the Sergeants' Mess in tremendous style on a one star golf trolley.

Comd Comms presents Cpl Irwin with his LS&GC

A bemused Cpl Cole accepts his third tape from Comd Comms

Comd Comms signs the visitors book in the WOs and Sergeants' Mess watched by WO1 (RSM) Crabtree

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

BATTLE CAMP

October this year saw the Training Officer, **Capt Harry Lund,** in an apprehensive mood. Had all the foresight and planning over the past few months in preparing for the Regimental Battle Camp been worthwhile or would the heavy workload and exercise commitment of the Regiment finally kill it dead? Well, by 12 October, although slightly depleted in numbers, it was all systems go for 'sunny' Salisbury Plain. With **SSgt Pete Bradbury** shaking a few ankles to boost the motivation factor and **WO2 (SSM) Ian McKinnon** showing remarkable restraint on the ETR Range, well supported by **Sgt Trev Keates** and **Cpl 'Roll your Own' Mac McLaughlin,** the Camp got off to a good start.

The CO, **Lt Col Keith Butler,** decided on a 'Dig In' exercise, night patrols, ambush drills, anti-ambush drills, at least one 20km tab, an eight mile speed march complete with day and night time firing plus a full scale military competition, all in a three day period!

The Platoon commanders were **Lt Phil Davies, 2Lt Dave Robson** and **Lt Guy Ashton** and all agreed that to get the Sections to dig a stage one defensive trench on Salisbury Plain would take five to six hours, a pneumatic drill, and would test one's sense of humour to the extreme! This they did with lots of hard work and perseverence by the Sections under the guidance of the Section commanders. One of them **Cpl 'Matty' Mathews,** was nearly in tears of frustration when he'd completed a 20km tab and had dug his defensive position, led recce and ambush patrols throughout the day and night only to find that on return early one morning, when he was about to get some sleep at last, he suddenly found his position was under seige: 'The Dawn Attack'. Before he could get to his defensive position, the trench he had spent five hours digging and preparing, **Sgt Larry Tulett,** acting as enemy and with a smile familiar only to the PT staff, politely informed him through the barrel of an SLR that he was out of action. Strong soldier type language was heard over a 3km radius that morning.

Sgt 'Crasher' Wyatt RAMC our residential medic was kept busy dealing with feet and hand blisters in between putting the ambulance off the road . . . for the second time! . . . and breaking the odd plate or two in the Mess! **Sgt Chris Kerrigan,** our MT rep, had at one stage thought that perhaps **Sgt Wyatt** had been sent to test him on traffic accident procedures or that previous to joining the Army he had been an attendant on Fairground Dodgem Cars!

Well with everything going according to plan, the CO's directive was carried out to the full . . . funny he never mentioned laying on a Hurricane, oh well never mind at least it proves that variety is the spice of life!

DYERS CUP

Report by Lt Stuart Sharman

These orders relate to the 'Dyers Cup Competition' held on 15 and 22 October 1987 during the Regimental Battle Camp. The aim of the competition is to test the military skills of a section of soldiers over an eight mile course including a series of stands.

GROUND

Left: An open stretch of pleasant rolling chalk downland situated between the dreamy hamlets of Tidworth and Bulford.

Centre: An open stretch of pleasant rolling chalk downland situated between the dreamy hamlets of Tidworth and Bulford.

Right: An open stretch of pleasant rolling chalk downland situated between the dreamy hamlets of Tidworth and Bulford.

SITUATION

EN FORCES

A genial old man dressed as a training officer eg, tracksuit, carrying a large box of Cambridge Diet.

'Mugs' McGann of dubious extraction wearing dark glasses and sporting an athletic racing snake persona, lives on Grecian 2,000.

FRIENDLY FORCES

The Dyers, (The Worshipful Company of), to be seen driven by an ex-Corps Rugby player with a particularly fine set of teeth and a very good tan. Looks about 25 . . . supposed to be the CO but is obviously far too young. (Creep).

The Luigi Brothers, **SSgt Pete Allen** and **SSgt Mick Baron** responsible for providing the warm dish water/soup?

MISSION

The mission is to capture the Dyers Cup at Bulford 'B' Range.

EXECUTION

This is a 5 phase operation:

Phase 1: A military defense exercise plus a 20km tab prior to the start of the competition as a gentle warm up.

Phase 2: Bursting the blisters at B range.

Phase 3: Cultivation of more blisters plus an eight mile tab, NBC, map reading, command tasks, ambush and shooting stands.

Phase 4: The end—well almost.

Phase 5: Falling plate competition.

Each section will follow the PTIs who have been fully briefed as to the exact route to take; be careful here of the 'x' factor, PTI **LCpl Sid Douglas,** who has explored far more of the pleasant rolling chalk downland than he was supposed to.

Having completed the map reading stand the section must not follow their own route as instructed, **WO2 (SSM) Ken Whillock** and **SSgt Andy Hunt** will be waiting to gas you!

At the first command task you will find your host **Lt Guy Ashton** (who is competing with **Lt Sharman** for first place in the 'Wurzel' competition). **Cpl 'H' Gleen** proved specially good during the rehearsals. Follow his example gentlemen and attack the problems aggressively.

At one stage you will encounter a Bacon Tree (so called by **Cpl Sid McGuire)** in fact its an Hambush, your reactions should be fast and decisive, did you get that **Sig Sid McTague**—Fast! Having completed the ambush drill there will be a stretcher carry for 400 yds encompassing a command task through a pond. The primary aim of this task is to wreak revenge on the passenger, the PTI!

Any team that does not successfully dunk the PTI will incur penalty points.

CO-ORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

Timings: Your time over the course will score up to 50 per cent of the overall score.

'H' Hour: The first team is away at 0800 hrs, others at 30 min intervals.

Concentration: Bulford B Range.

Routes: As directed by the PTIs.

SERVICE SUPPORT

Ammo: Five rounds per man for the 'Bacon Tree'.

Feeding: The Jelly beans (remedial PT persons!) trough shall be filled at the Range, normal mortals (DS) shall breakfast before arriving!

Dress: As you are but covered in mud and muck!

Med Cover: The stretcher is available.

POW: Any prisoners are to be forced to watch four episodes of the Regimental Soap—'Neighbours'!

COMMAND AND RESULT

Command: There shall be no command, anarchy is to rule and chaos will ensue.

Result: Section 9 from 1 Sqn won the Dyers Cup with 53 points.

The Section after River crossing incurring no penalty points

1 SQUADRON INTER-TROOP HOCKEY COMPETITION

The Squadron held an Inter-Troop Indoor Hockey Competition on Friday 9 October 1987, in the Blandford Garrision Gym. The competition was organised and run by **Sgt Brian 'Got to Escape Again' Carlin** with the assistance as an umpire of **Sgt Titch 'Maggot' Howitson.**

The four Troops entered two teams of eight each, except for Bravo Tp, who could only manage one team due to other commitments.

The competition commenced with two pools of teams, each team playing the remainder in its pool. The winners and runners up went into a play off. Eventually, after a lot of enthusiastic hockey the final was played between Tech Tp and Support Tp. Although there were two players of Regimental standard in Support Tp, the drive and cunning of Tech Tp made them the overall winners—well done! A mention should go to Bravo Tp as they did put up a good fight but were knocked out in the semi-finals.

OC 1 Sqn, **Maj John Grierson,** presented the prizes and rewarded the Squadron with two days off (Saturday and Sunday), thank you Sir! We are now looking forward to taking part in the Regimental six-a-side competition to be held later this year.

RUGBY

The team has had a most encouraging start to the season with only one loss in the first eleven games.

As always we are suffering because we are unable to maintain a regular side due to exercise and roulement commitments. However we are able to draw on quite a large pool of experienced and enthusiastic players, **Cpls Chalky Aitkins** and **'H' Glean** are as solid as ever along with **Sgt Trev Keates,** sometimes making it difficult to select younger talented players like **Sig Symmo Symmonds** an Army U21 player, and **Sig 'Taff' Dunbar** and **Sig 'Clem' Clemence,** both Army U19 players.

We sadly had to say goodbye to **QMSI Terry Dolan** recently for a short tour to the South Atlantic and shortly we shall be losing **SSgt (FofS) Marty Webb** on posting to 264 Sig Sqn.

Commiserations are sent to **SSgt Pete Bradbury** who having only played one game for us broke his collar bone. The message being, 'don't mess with the big boys!'

Finally by way of apology. With three officers to run the Regimental Rugby one could argue that the management team is a little overcrowded; however, mistakes can occur! When playing RSA Larkhill it was not until the referees stud check took place that we realised we were only 14 men strong, **LCpl 'Paddy' Henry** having been left in the car park through no fault of his own—except that he had trusted us!

FOOTBALL

Report by Cpl Swann (Football Secretary)

The main activity on the football scene has been on the transfer market with four 'key' players being snapped up by the cream factory at the School.

Nevertheless the Regiment now has a new manager **Capt (Harry) Lund** from 28 Sig Regt, and already he is beginning to churn out a new flock of young players ready for the next 'transfer dead line'.

Owing to our worldwide commitments only one league match (a victory over 94 Loc Regt) and one cup tie (a defeat against AAC Centre) have been played.

We welcome to the team: **Sgt Dave Beggs, Cpl 'Legs' Lincoln, Cpls John Linck, Dave Bourne, Sig Taff Berrill** and **Cfn Harry Harrington** and must hope that they are not on a short term posting—pending transfer (if the price is right).

It must be mentioned that our RSM **WO1 Pete Sutherland** was forced out of retirement to play in both matches—a goalkeeper of much standing (mainly around the mess bar), seriously though a big thank you for turning on the style and helping us in our hour of need.

HORSE RIDING

BHS GRADE 1 COURSE, RAC STABLES BOVINGTON

Thanks to the generosity of the Royal Armoured Corps stables, Bovington, four of the Regiment's keenest horsemen, **Sgt (I am keeping my mouth shut) Tomison, Sgt (Top of the Course) Inman, SSgt (Airborne) Oehme** and **Sgt (Direct me to the Officers' Mess please!) Ward** set out to pass the Grade 1 Riding Club Test under the guidance of Bovington's resident military riding instructor, **LCOH Lewis** Household Cavalry.

Each student was allocated his own horse for the week, except **Sgt Tomison** who brought his Corps dressage horse Ozzie to sharpen up his drill movements. The days events consisted of two rides and a stable management lecture, with the rest of the time looking after the mounts. Smiles were quickly wiped off faces when the LCOH introduced us to the cavalry method of learning to ride: Jumping with NO stirrups, reins, saddles, backwards—you name it! By the end of the week, seats had been deepened sufficiently to be allowed to take the test.

The RAC stables president, **Lt Col (Retd) Winter** arrived to examine the candidates on their ability to ride a quiet horse on the flat while maintaining a correct position in the saddle. To conclude there was a written and oral exam to test our knowledge of horses.

Great fun but hard work. It is hoped to run more courses in the future as soon as the closet riders are found and exposed, Ma'am!

The Regimental Riding Club
L to R: SSgt Lou Oehme, LCOH Lewis, SSgt (FofS) Terry Inman, Sgt Michael Tomison, Lt Col (Retd) Winter and Sgt Chris Ward

THE ALDERNEY DINNER

Report by Maj Mike Sheehan

The annual Alderney Dinner is an opportunity for the Regiment to entertain guests from the States of Alderney together with representatives from our sister services who also have an association with the Island. Although HMS *Alderney* was out on patrol, RAF Odiham was represented by **Wg Cdr MacGregor** and **Sqn Ldr Suttie,** with OC 7 Sqn (Chinooks), **Wg Cdr Hopper.**

The States were represented by **Mrs Eileen Sykes,** Vice President of Alderney, **Lt Col (Retd) Peter Walter, Jurat Cadoret** and **Mr and Mrs Jenkins.** The PMC collected the Alderney party at Eastleigh Airport and brought them direct to Westdown Camp for the Families Day. An all-in stew in the cookhouse caused some alarm among the Alderney party who had been led to believe that 30 Sig Regt had invited them for a formal dinner!

They were able to work up an appetite shopping in Salisbury, before being entertained to tea in the Corps Room by the CO and Asst Adjt, who was somewhat the worse for wear after her time at Battle Camp.

In between carrying out their duties as hosts, both **Lt Col Butler** and the PMC, **Maj Mike Sheehan,** were busy fielding the inevitable last minute cases of attendance/non attendance/re-allocation of seats, as well as a difference of opinion regarding the discos. (Needless to say, the CO was right).

The evening got off to a very sociable start with the drinks extended by half an hour to allow our RAF and LSG guests to catch up after being delayed by a major pile-up on the M3. At half past eight the trumpeters sounded the Alderney Fanfare, the PMC said the traditional Naval Grace and the meal organised by **Brian Hunt** and his kitchen staff at last got under way.

It was particularly notable how well the Corps Band played for our dinner, not only because the PMC had chosen several 'Classical' pieces, but because under their new Director of Music, renewed enthusiasm and spirit were obvious. The Regimental Marches included a grand old cavalry march from the Kaiser's time in honour of **Lt Mueller** (our German visitor) and the 'Z-Cars' theme for **Chief Inspector Trickey** of the Dorset Police.

The evening drifted on well into the small hours, with those who had entertained the Dyers at Camp the previous night passing the pain barrier and making sure that **Lt Col Walter** was surrounded by good company!

The 30 Sig Regt MT delivered all the Alderney guests and their baggage to Hurn airport in good time for their flight home the next morning.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 17 September **Maj Saddiq Ahmed** took over command of the Squadron from **Maj Doug Bartlett TD**, who continues as Regimental Pipe Band President. **Capt George Findlay TEM**, now fills the 2IC slot.

ARU INSPECTION

During the second week of camp the Regiment was inspected by Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig J. A. P. Russell ADC**, on his last official visit before retiring from the army. The Officers of the Regiment bade the the Brigadier farewell as guest of honour at the dining out of **Maj Jack Fiskell**. The following morning much to his surprise the Brigadier was presented with a red Grant Tartan kilt (as worn by officers of 51 Sqn).

FAREWELL

As we go to press, an Officers and Senior Ladies dinner night is about to be held to say farewell to **Capt Joyce Rhind TD, WRAC** and **SSgt Ian Dyker TEM, ACC**.

Both enlisted into the TA in 1971 and have decided to hang up their hats after 16 years service.

Joyce leaves the Squadron as 2IC to further her career as lecturer in computer studies and we bid her a fond farewell with best wishes for the future.

Ian, a monumental mason by trade, who found his niche in the Army Catering Corps (his rock cakes are superb!). **Ian** will be sorely missed.

CONGRATULATORY

The Squadron congratulates the undermentioned personnel for their achievements while attending courses at Catterick:-

TA Detachment Commanders (WRAC) Course No 5 3-17 October
Best Detachment Commander — **LCpl Karen Cormack**

TA Recruit Course No 192 11-25 July
Top Recruit — **Sig Tom McCappin**
Best Shot — **Sig Derek Wisniewski**

THE HOLMES CHALLENGE SHIELD FOR EFFICIENCY

The Holmes Challenge Shield for Efficiency was presented to 51 Highland Divisional Signals by **H. A. Holmes** of Fairfield, Dean of Guild of Aberdeen, in memory of his son **Harry A. Holmes** who joined 51 Highland Div Sig Coy as a Despatch Rider on the outbreak of the Great War, August 1914. He was severely wounded in action at High Wood, France, 22 July 1916 and died on 22 May 1921 while serving in the Defence Force.

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

WORK

In the last few months 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V) has concentrated mostly on trade training. With all our Data Telegraphists and Radio Operators having to change to the new trade of RTg (HD), we have all learnt many new skills. It's the poor R Ops that are having the worst time—having to learn to type—but they are getting there. The wonders of propagation and antenna theory come as a shock to those more used to in-recording and routing! About one third of those involved have now qualified and with 1 April as the target date, the others are well on the way. A certain female officer has decided she should learn morse and can be seen wandering around going Di-Da-Da-Dah, much to everyone's consternation—including her own!

FUN

For the occasional 'different' weekend, 61 Sqn can be seen orienteering, clay pigeon shooting, playing darts. A competition weekend included all these, with a few trade skills thrown in for good measure. (Honest boss, the darts were played at lunch time and in the evening). **Cpl Sharon Dowell** won the female darts competition in a fierce final against **Cpl Leslie Kimber**, with **Sgt 'Rab' Meldrum** taking the mens crown. A very close 'military' competition actually ended in a draw, with the winners being decided in a drinking match during the evening. No one can actually remember who won. (Except those few people who were driving, and they're not telling).

The next morning heads were clear for Remembrance Sunday services. Twelve members of the Squadron formed the WRAC detachment at the Edinburgh Castle ceremonies. We borrowed **Maj Ruth Maltman** from RHQ to lead the detachment, on a rather cold November Day. Even though fingers and knees became blue, all those participating, said that they would not have missed the occasion. The rest of the Squadron went to our Parish Church for the Remembrance Service. Afterwards all members of the Squadron, their families and civilian staff partook of one of **Sgt 'Rab' Meldrum**'s celebrated curries in the JRC.

COMPETITION

Many months of hard work finally came to fruition when the Squadrons entered 52 Bde military skills competition for the first time

Presentation to Brig J. A. P. Russell

The presentation of a kilt to Brig J. A. P. Russell ADC, Comd 2 Sig Bde was made by the Officers of 32 Sig Regt (V) on the occasion of the Brigadier's last official visit to the Regiment before retiring from the Army. The centrepiece in the photograph is the subject of text above.

L-R: WO2 (SSM) Donald Webster, OC Maj Saddiq Ahmed, Comd 2 Sig Bde Brig J. A. P. Russell, CO Lt Col D. P. Hughes, Capt George Findlay, Maj Doug Bartlett and 2Lt Linda Duncan

in many years. The hours of route marches, shooting, first aid practice and NBC were well worth it as the team faced a tough two days. Even though the team was not in the prize list, we are very proud of them. So congratulations go to: **Maj Jim McKee, Capt Willie Barron, SSgt 'Camp' Payn, LCpl Donal Moffar, Cpl Sharon Dowell, LCpl Stewart Young, LCpl Steve Fouracre, Sig Keith Marshall, George Popp** and **Derek Addison**. Better luck next year lads (and lassie), we know you will do even better! Point to note: **Cpl Sharon Dowell** was the only female in the whole competition!

ANNUAL CAMP

Regimental camp last year was held from 26 September-10 October. During the first week of camp 51 (Highland) and 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqns were joint tenants of Wathgill battle camp, Costa del Catterick.

Concentrating on military skills, much range work was done. The highlight of the week was 'Ex Piromania'—a counter-terrorist infantry-based three day exercise. The weather gods were kind to us—infantry exercises are so much more enjoyable when the participants remain dry; but the tactical gods ensured that Blue and Orange Force Patrols 'bumped' one another, as planned, which was fine; but they also bumped 1 RTR, 17/21 Lancers and RAF Regt as well!

Thanks to **Capt Nick Cavaye**, ex-Infantry (now RAPC) for able assistance, freely given.

Also for gay wit and repartee **WO2 (FofS) Mario Chomitz** visiting from 38 Sig Regt (V).

Our second week was spent trade training at STC Scarborough, our home-from-home, 'nuff said'.

'The Enemy' *L-R* Sgt Helen Anderson (61 Sqn), Capt John Geddes (51 Sqn), WO2 (FofS) Mario Chomitz (38 Regt) and Sgt Heather Ingram (51 Sqn)

REWARDS

The GOC Scotland, **Lt Gen Sir Norman Arthur KCB**, came on a farewell visit to the Squadron on Thursday 19 November 1987. He saw many aspects of the Squadron at work including a set of very raw recruits on their first evening in the TA! He seemed well pleased with what he saw, and spoke to almost all the members of the Squadron during the evening. We wish the General good luck as he leaves the army and starts a new life.

Another person bound for 'Civvy Street' is our PSI, **SSgt Dave Cormack**, who has finally found a way of leaving the Squadron! He is sure to keep in touch as he will be living in Perth. (Maybe we would recruit him!) Good luck **Dave** and **Linda**, and have fun.

SSgt 'Chippy' Chambers has now stepped into **Dave**'s shoes (a bit of a tight fit) and is settling into the TA way of life.

The 'Pips' were flying thick and fast at annual camp this year as two officers found themselves promoted. It is now **Capt Bryan Gilfether** and **Capt Willie Barron** (we must remember to stop calling them Mister—it gets too expensive buying all those drinks). Changes have taken place in the Sergeants' Mess too, with the promotion of **Cpl Sharon Dowell** to Sergeant. It is not often that promotions occur, without the Squadron OC knowing exactly when they are going to take place, but it happened on this occastion.

Finally congratulations to **Rachel** (Mrs OC) on the arrival of **Jamie**. **Maj Jim McKee** is now learning how to fold nappies and other such things, and is thoroughly enjoying his new responsibilities.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

PERMANENT STAFF

With 1987 coming to a close, the Permanent Staff are now looking forward to the Christmas Block leave and reflecting on the Regiment's achievements over the past year.

These have been numerous due mainly to the hard graft and planning of the Management Team which is based at RHQ in Huyton. They are:

CO	**Lt Col Roger Willsher**
Trg Maj	**Maj Peter Hallett**
QM	**Maj (QM) Len Jeffery**
Adjt	**Capt David Poole MBE**

This team however, will change dramatically early in the New Year with the departures of the CO, Trg Maj and the QM. Having only recently welcomed our new Adjutant into the Regiment 1988 will definitely be a 'New Year' for the incoming team.

Since our last report, the Regiment has continued to be very busy with the usual PRE's, UEI's and Fire inspections coupled with running this year's Merseyside Annual Reporting Centre which involved nearly 1,000 reservists converging on Alamein TAC at Huyton for their administration and pay.

PRESENTATIONS

Congratulations go to **SSgt 'Geordie' Bradley** on being awarded a Merseyside Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. **Geordie**, accompanied by his family visited HMS *Eaglet* in Liverpool on 20 October 1987 where he was presented with the certificate by the Lord Lieutenant of Liverpool, **Wing Cdr K. M. Stoddart, AE**.

SSgt Bradley has served with the Regiment since 1972 having previously served in the Regular Army for 12 years. All of his service in the TA has been with HQ Sqn where he has come up through the ranks as a Powerman and Technical Storeman. Well done **Geordie**, keep up the good work!

TWO OF OUR MEMBERS HONOURED

Also from Headquarter Squadron is **WO2 Marie Watkinson WRAC**, a member of the PS and **WO2 (SSM) John Morrison** who, in recognition of their efforts in the Wingate Towers gas explosion (as reported in the March issue of *The Wire*) were awarded citations by the GOC North West District, **Maj Gen C. T. Shortis CBE**, who visited the Regiment to present the citations.

TA HALF MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The weekend of 17/18 October 1987 proved to be very busy for **Lt Cathy McGrath WRAC, Cpl Eileen Halliday WRAC** and **Sig Adrian Wallington** all serving with 59 Sqn Liverpool, who together with **Cpl Ralph Harwood** of HQ Sqn, represented the Regiment in the TA Half Marathon Championships held at Melton Mowbray.

Saturday was spent orienteering with members of 80 Sqn Chester, under the supervision of **Capt Jean Payne WRAC** and her husband **Lt Andy Payne**. **Cpl Harwood** decided to do his own thing and completed (at a rate of knots) two orienteering courses in quick succession, otherwise sanity prevailed and **Lt Cathy McGrath** managed to keep the more cautious half of the marathon runners in check for a gentle cross country run.

They arrived in Melton Mowbray relatively unscathed but dubiously observing the enormous hills encountered en route. Even the individualist, **Cpl Harwood**, had spent a day's pay on a bed in a local hostelry and they eventually left him nursing a well earned drink in the White Lion Inn, to continue on to RAF Cottesmore where steak and chips appeased their appetites.

An early departure for Melton Mowbray was required on Sunday morning after settling their 33p individual mess bill (they will definitely go back at that price!).

To describe the course as 'fairly testing' in the early stages was an understatement and 'hilly' proved to be positively mountainous. Add a gale force wind and the course was a masochist's dream.

Cpl Halliday had improved her time by two minutes on last year's and as usual she led our contingent home. What a surprise! She received three prizes; TA lady over 35 winner, Open lady over 40 winner and being of Irish descent, won last year's prize for finishing second lady overall!

Surrounded by two male bodyguards, **Cpl Halliday**'s prizes of cut glass goblets arrived back in Liverpool safely, as did all the team, amidst vows that this was definitely the last half marathon for them all, at least until next year, but in the meantime the cross country season beckons.

WO2 Norman Jolliffe (*third from the left*) manning the Reserve Forces Stand at the TUC Conference

TRADE UNION CONGRESS—BLACKPOOL
Report by WO2 N. Jolliffe

A Reserve Forces display stand at the TUC Congress? I don't believe it, but yes it's true, we did put a display stand in the Winter Gardens and to our great satisfaction it was a success and given much attention by the delegates. I had the privilege of opening up the shutters at 0845 hrs on Monday 7 September 1987 which was the first day of the Congress. There were a few eyebrows raised when we walked through the arrival hall but during the course of the day delegates from all over the country came and exchanged views about both the TA and Unions. Most were surprised to find out that about 80% of Reserve soldiers were either union members or have at some time been involved with union organisations. By lunchtime that day quite a few well known names had been entered in our visitors book.

As a branch secretary of the General and Municipal Union I found the conversation I had with **Mr John Edmunds**, the secretary of the second biggest union in the country and my boss as it were, most rewarding. Within half an hour my other boss, **Maj Gen C. T. Shortis CBE**, the GOC of North West District spent about one hour at the stand talking to me and the other members of the Reserve Forces. On the stand with me was a signal officer from the Royal Naval Reserve based at HMS *Salford*, a **Sgt Gregory** from 3 Cheshire and **OCdt Freathy** of 5/8 Kings.

The stand was a great success and I hope we continue to have such an opportunity at top level gatherings to reach out to the people who we normally think are too busy to know who we are and what we do.

MERSEYSIDE ANNUAL REPORTING CENTRE 1987

The Regiment was tasked with running the 1987 ARCEX for Merseyside and as usual this was passed to the QM, **Maj Len Jeffery** for action. After countless meetings, conferences, cigarettes and cups of tea, the dates of 31 October-6 November were selected and agreed upon by HQ NWDIST/HQ UKLF/MOD and the caretaker. Work then began preparing for this major event of administering one thousand plus reservists. As the dates grew nearer obscure messages were being received from all directions in RHQ saying that due to unforseen circumstances such as exercises/courses/leave/family commitments most personnel would not be available, what's new? So putting on a brave face, rumour has it that the QM and the RMTO (is it normal for these two powerful Departments to mix in harmony?) said 'Go for it' and called in most of HQ Sqn at Huyton with assistance from members of 59 Sqn—Edge Lane, Liverpool and members from 80 Sqn based at Chester.

It must be said that a lot of hard work and effort was put into the task by both the Permanent Staff members and volunteer soldiers of all ranks to meet the requirements and 12 hour days are no joke after day two.

We were however, all rewarded by the comments of the Reservists who readily praised all the staff on their reception, speedy processing, cheerfulness and enthusiasm, which of course are all the basic qualities of a good 'Scouse'.

Special thanks go to the following personnel who made what seemed a monumental task into a complete success they are: **Sgts Ian Collier, Alan Welch** and **Jim Latimer**, all PS, together with the volunteer soldiers who ran the Reception Desk. Briefings were given by **Capt Jean Payne** from HQ Sqn and her husband **Lt Andy Payne** from 80 Sqn (and not one pained expression was seen!).

Documentation processing was carried out by our CC, **SSgt 'Taffy' Roberts** together with his happy band of civilian and military clerks in between typing confidential reports, clearing the first sight mail and as he is an ex para, carrying out bank escort duties. **SSgt 'Geordie' Bradley** and **RQMS Dave Downey** ran the clothing section with members of 'Q' Tp. They were so polite and helpful the QM(V), **Capt George Tinker**, returned to his PRI shop in disgust muttering something about re-training courses.

WO2 'Snaps' Jolliffee ran the Recruiting and Information and PR stands (he is now fully qualified after attending the TUC conference). Lots of names were taken of reservists keen on joining the TA. The Changing facilities were supervised by the terrible twins, namely **WOs 'Happy' Harry Harper** and **Barry 'Shiney' Shone** who still can't fathom out why the female reservists changed in the QM's office!

The NBC Cell was run by **WO2 Tommy Watkinson, Sgts Arthur Meakin, Eddy Buchanan** all from Huyton with **Sgt Kenny 'The Gas' Male** from 80 Sqn. **Lt Mike Ellis** and **WO2 Ronnie Gawthorne** with the Regimental cooks provided hot drinks and meals throughout the period for everyone, as ever, the meals were first class and served under the watchful eye of **Sgt Bobby 'The Skeleton' Jones**. Pay was the responsibility of **Maj Reg Griffiths RAPC**, from Comd Finance Branch NWDist with our Imprest Holder **Capt Keith Derrick** hoping the books would balance each day. **Capt Tony Rudder** and the Regimental Pay Team of **WO2 Bob Traynor, Sgt Eddy Watson** and pay staff from HQ, 59 and 80 Sqns. No complaints, no horrors and the books balanced. Not much change out of £65k. Oh yes, **Lt Cathy McGrath** was there as well!

Behind the scenes, as always, was **WO1 'Dickie' Davis RMTO, WO2 Marie Watkinson WRAC, SSgt George Whitfield, Sgt Barney Madden** and **Cpls 'Cokey' Haynes** and **Robbo Robertson**. Well done everyone.

FOCUS ON 42 SIG SQN—MANCHESTER—RSAAM

Congratulations to the members of 42 Sig Sqn (V) who took part in the Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Altcar Rifle Range on 19/20 September 1987 and took three of the trophies.

The Skill-at-Arms Meeting is an annual Regimental event in which the four Squadrons of 33 Sig Regt (V) compete for a number of trophies and medals. It is also the time of the year when members of the Regiment are able to display their skills and accuracy on the range. The major shooting events were the Moving Targets, the Pistol, SLR competition, SMG competition, the Falling Plates and the Pool Bull. Each Squadron entered a team for each event and by the end of the competition 42 had won the LMG, Moving Targets and the Falling Plates trophies. A member of the Squadron also won a share in the Pool Bull. Those who participated in the event were extremely proud of themselves and the Squadron congratulates them on their performance.

The winning Shooting Team of 42 Sig Sqn Manchester *L to R Rear:* Cpl Sharples, Sig Smith, Cpl Hall, Sig Hopkins, Page and Cpl Nott
L to R Front: Cpls Duffin, Ward, Sig Cole, Sgt Hatkinson and Cpl McDermitt

A PRIDE OF QUARTERMASTERS

It is not very often that we get the chance of photographing our three Quartermasters together (they are known to hibernate at different times) however, the unexpected event arose recently at an Officers' Mess Dinner and not only has the writer of this article got the only print, but has the negative as well (It's got to be worth at least a pair of thermal socks!)

As they are all 'old timers', even a brief history of their combined service would probably fill two issues of *The Wire*. Needless to say they are all still striving to meet the demands of our TA soldiers and doing an excellent job of it too—'ad unum omnes'.

The three Quartermasters of 33

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

With the 1987 exercise season over and only the next exercise season to look forward to, the Regiment has settled into its 'run up to Christmas' routine: BFTs, UEIs, Boards of Officers and the like. Despite these distractions, one or two events have been recorded by the Squadrons.

HQ SQUADRON

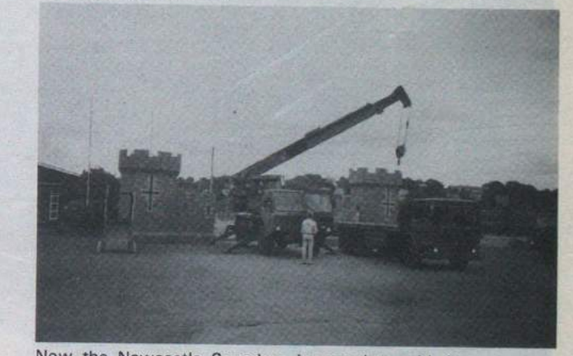
Once again we provided a good detachment for the Sutton Coldfield Service of Remembrance and Parade. It was well organised by the Royal British Legion and went without a hitch. Congratulations and thanks to **Capt Liz Moreton** and **SSgt Mick Kearney** who, along with their small and dedicated band of chefs, provided a memorable curry lunch for all the Messes.

Our contribution to the TA Open Day in November was a series of displays and demonstrations. It should be mentioned, though, that the most popular stand was McJimmys which was selling its infamous, and cut price, Jimmyburgers. This display was previewed by **Jimmy Edwards** who was not impressed by the delicacies contained in a 24 hr ration pack and appalled by the standard of haircut of **LCpl Christine Spiers** and **Eileen Fox.**

58 SQUADRON

Wire Notes—What again? Nothing, absolutely nothing, zilcho, has happened since last time. Oh, wait a minute, there was that Leadership/Adventure Training Weekend, Ex Ambleside Warrior. What a way to spend a Bank Holiday Weekend too; trogging and bimbling in glorious August sunshine up and down hills (memories of Camp—yuk). Highlights—**Sig Phil 'Filthy Mk 2' Parton** is not to be trusted with Combat trousers, **Sig Jones**, the current title holder for non-stop drivel over a TA Weekend, and **Mick Bagguley** for his excellent instruction on section commanders responsibilities. **'Yosser' Hughes** rests her case.

Went quiet for a bit and then there were these Sapper chappies with a crane and a castle? Seems Stoke-on-Trent Garden Festival had one castle too many, so being ever the good samaritan **Lt 'Dutch' Holland** kindly volunteered a home for it. It now provides an interesting background to our TAC.



Now the Newcastle Squadron is complete with its very own castle

To show our appreciation we had a Mac and Wellies barbecue two days later inside. Well what a time for the new CO to see us in action. **Lt Col Dobson** thought we were OK and Oat Cakes AOK. He was even more impressed when, not only did we communicate, but we were part of a steam traction rally too. No we were not displaying our vehicles, we were recruiting!

Talking about recruiting, nearly forgot the TA Open Day in Early August. Lots of green things were put on display, even had one that walked and talked. Well done the tree, **Sig Mark Stewart. LCpl Rob Shone** thought himself very clever to strip down a SWB Landrover only to find himself cursing when re-assembling it on the Sunday. **SSgt 'Skip' Whalley** and **LCpl 'Lucy' Locket** were really chuffed when the ACF loaned an SA80. Meanwhile the more technically minded of the general public wrestled with the wizadry of **Cpl Johnsons'** yellow peril power board.

Suppose, all in all, we have had a reasonable, although not as busy, but busier than others, type of month. Ooops nearly forgot the one liners—**2Lt Chris Edwards** is definitely on the wagon after the Brigade

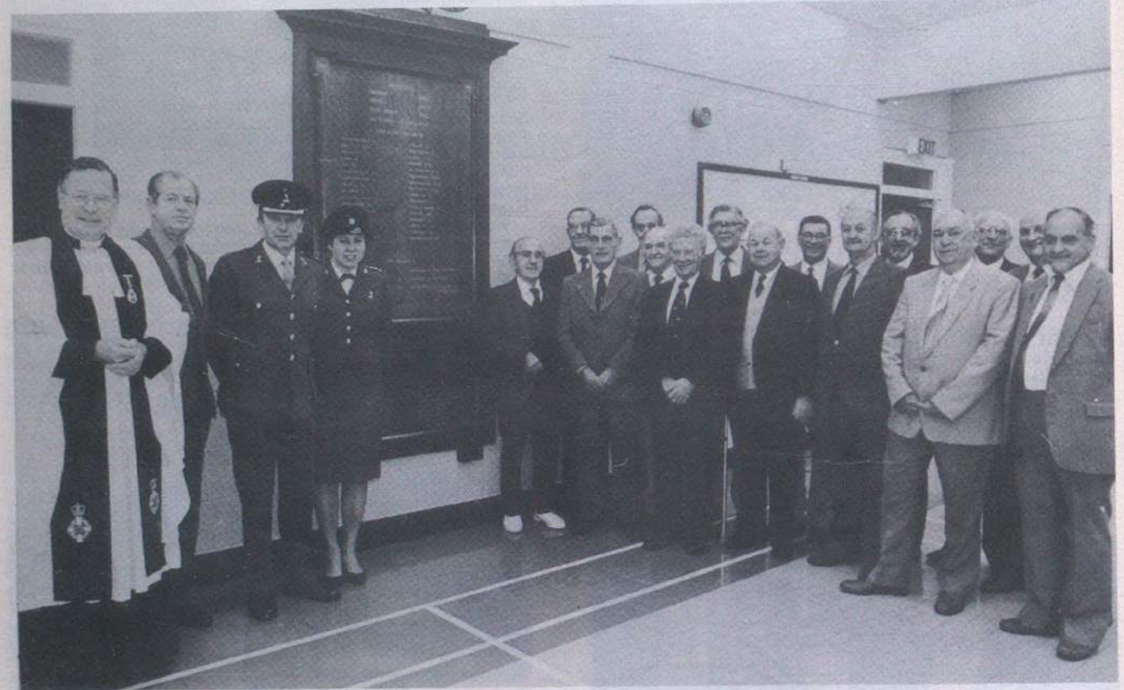
Conference. Congratulations to **Cpl Paddy Knowles** and wife **Gail** on the birth of their first Combat Lineman. We say goodbye and Good Luck of our old Adjt **Capt Clive Mason** and hello to the new Adjt **Capt Suzy Reed.** Somehow she does not put the fear of God into men like the old one, but it's early days yet! Welcome to the new PSI **Mal 'I'm off on another course' Metcalfe**—bit tongue in cheek! Goodbye to **Capt Jane Hubbard**'s street cred—a 2 CV indeed! Congratulations to **Cpl Sharon Capel, LCpls Yosser Hughes, Lotty Loton** and **Kathy Allen** on their recent promotion.

The following poem was sent in by **LCpl Anne Cox** of 89 Sig Sqn (V).

TAVR OPEN DAY 21 NOVEMBER 1987

'tis our intent
said the Regiment
For good and ill
we shall display our skill
So in times of war
we can defend this shore

Do come on down
when you're in town
To Edward Street
our Squadron to meet
As we open the door
of the Signal Corps
So we went to see our own TA
on the 21st, a Saturday
Where Sergeants and the others too
showed us jobs they have to do
Demonstrate a radio set
Camouflage trucks with a net
Fire a gun within the range
practice First Aid for a change
Eat a 'burger cooked by 'Bren'
or send a message, now and then
Hope to get a new recruit
to wear a smart Commando suit



89 SQUADRON

In October, the Squadron played host to a group of old soldiers from a former TA gun battery. The occasion was the re-dedication of a plaque commemorating men from Rugby's 272 Battery, Royal Artillery, who died in the First and Second World Wars. The unit was based in our TA Centre and the plaque was recovered from one of the older buildings by the PSAO **Maj (Retd) Roy Smithard.** In a Service conducted by the Regimental Padre, The **Rev Maxwell Lucas,** the plaque was re-dedicated in the new hall under the eyes of the men who remember the Fallen.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

The months of September and October 1987 saw a flurry of action within the Regiment.

Annual camp was held at Scarborough from 12-26 September with trade training and detachment skills being the main activities. On the middle Saturday our new Honorary Colonel, **Col A. Yeoman CB,** took the Regimental Parade and presented medals to **Capt Gill Jones** (Territorial Decoration), **SSgt Philip Dixon** (Long Service and Good Conduct), **Sgts Graham Hayman** and **Ken Harrington** (Territorial Efficiency).

Early morning runs, the BFT and Exercise Rippon Chase provided the physical challenge for those with energy to spare after the new Regimental game of car parking!

'New boys' whose first TA Camp this was included the CO, **Lt Col Jonathan Cox, WO1 (RSM) Bernie Thomas** and **WO2 (YofS) Bill Wingate.** The other RHQ recent arrival **Trg Maj John Reed** had camped with 35 Sig Regt (V) in the past and therefore considered himself an old hand. The end of Camp report for all three new arrivals indicated they have strength, stamina and fortitude having come through the 15 day ordeal still smiling and looking forward to Camp 88 for a repeat dose!

October saw all the Squadrons participating in Exercise Killer Whale which it was hoped would be the last—yes the very last—Brigade D11 exercise, however only time will tell!

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Since last going to press the Squadron has achieved a few successes in a variety of fields.

Most notable of these was the runaway win by one of the Squadron teams on exercise Summer Solstice III, the CO's annual exercise. Thirteen teams competed over a gruelling weekend on Salisbury Plain, resulting in 67 Sqn's teams being placed first (led by **SSgt Mal Cooper**), third and sixth.

Later in the year **Pte Helen Darby** of CMHQ Tp was judged 'Best Recruit' on intake 144 at the WRAC Centre in July, and **Sig Adrian Barrie,** also of CMHQ Tp, achieved the same distinction on Recruits Course No 193 at Catterick in August.

The Squadron Shooting Team also collected its share of kudos when the Pistol Team **(2Lt Alan MacLeod, SSgt Ray Campbell** and **Sig Tim Alberts)** achieved first place at the Regimental SAAM.

The Squadron strength at Scarborough was unusually low with a large number of personnel attending a course or attachment in lieu during the year. Those who did attend had an enjoyable time, the emphasis being on trade training with a three day exercise during the second week.

Our cooks excelled themselves at Camp, not only in the Savoy-like atmosphere of the Officers' Mess, but also in the field, where they played with the new 150 man cookset. **Cpl John Hubbard** along with **LCpls Dave Billard** and **Tracy Fleming** also achieved fame by being placed second in the Camp Catering Competition. Perhaps they were deterred by the bizarre costume adopted by the Padre who was one of the judges. A white bowler hat and plastic apron would hardly inspire confidence in his congregation.

In conclusion we welcome to the Squadron **Sig Morgan, Girdler, Jonins** and **Palmer** and hope they will have an enjoyable stay with us.

Padre David Sutch in his white bowler and apron gets ready to judge the Camp Cooking Contest. Capt (QM) Dave Longhurst explains to OC 67 Sqn, Maj Edward Widgery, the more soldierly way to stand. Capt (PSAO) Norman Salmon thinks 'it was never like this in the infantry!'

During Camp Capt (TOT) Keith Knowles was caught demonstrating to TM Tp the technical way to open a padlocked door!

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

Welcome to all our readers from the new 38 Editor! Having taken the mantle of 2IC from **Lt Col Toby Seymour, Maj Terry Phillips** also takes over the collation of the 38th contribution—a hard act to follow.

'The hard-hat brigade!' RHQ visits local industry (Stocksbridge Engineering Steels)
L to R: Lt Col Steve Coltman, CO; Capt Dave Hornsby, Adjt; Pete Thompson, Personnel Director SES; WO1 (RSM) Don McLennan and Maj David Podevin, Trg Major

CONGRATULATIONS

To **2Lt Vanda Leary** (87 Sqn) on being awarded the Henwood Spur as the best young officer in the Regiment for 1987—a second successive year an officer from 87 Sqn has been the recipient. To **Sgt Mark Gardner** (64 Sqn) on being presented with the Sivell Trophy as the best young Sergeant in the Regiment for 1987. It was fitting that on both these occasions, the presenter of the trophy was in attendance. **Lt Col Nick Henwood** at the Regimental Officers' Mess Dinner in October, and **Lt Derek Sivell** (formerly WO1 with the Regiment, now an HSF Officer) at the Regimental Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner at Scarborough STC in November. To **SSgt Stan Fitzgerald** (93 Sqn) who was the best SNCO on Staff Sergeant Course No 39/40 at Catterick. To **Cpl Dawn Hannel** (HQ Sqn) who was the best student on the Detachment Commanders (WRAC) course No 5 also at Catterick. To 64 Sqn for winning the Clinch Cup as the overall winners of the 2 Bde .22 pistol shooting competition, and the Gill Salver, awarded for the best TA team in the competition.

Maj Lachlan Fraser (2 Sig Bde) presents the Gill Salver to SSgt Harry Lomas, team captain of 64 Sqn .22 shooting team

WELCOME AND GOODBYE

The Foreman of Signals **WO2 (FofS) Mick Shaw** has finally hung up his boots and entered the civilian job market. We wish him well in this change of lifestyle and extend a warm welcome to his replacement from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **WO2 (FofS) Marcus Sulivan**. Our Yeoman of Signals has also departed for sunnier climes. **WO (YofS) John Chilcott** will move to the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces after a spell of intensive language training. His replacement, **WO2 (YofS) 'Gus' Colville** has joined us from 22 Sig Regt. We wish them all well in their new posts and trust our new arrivals will enjoy their stay with us.

COLONELS GALORE!

October saw our Regimental Officers' Mess dinner at which **Lt Col Toby Seymour** and **Maj Charlie Cartwright** were dined out. A unique photograph for 38 Sig Regt was taken with six Colonels in attendance all of whom had had service with the Regiment. Unsure of the collective terms for Colonels suffice it to say we record the following with pride: **Col John Francis**—CO 1967-1969, Hon Col 1981-1986; **Col Alan Hawksworth**—CO 1981-1986; Hon Col 1986-to date; **Col Alan Ripley**—OC 87 Sqn, subsequently CO East Midlands University OTC and TA Col; **Col Roger Merryweather**—OC 87 Sqn, currently Commandant Notts ACF; **Col Toby Seymour**—OC 64 Sqn, 2IC 38 Regt 1984-1987, currently Commandant Yorks ACF and **Lt Col Nick Henwood**—CO 1984-1986, to be Dep Comd 12 Bde on promotion to Colonel wef 1 January 1988.

'38's Company of Colonels'
Standing L to R: Cols Alan Ripley, Toby Seymour, Lt Col Nick Henwood and Col Roger Merryweather
Sitting L to R: Cols John Francis and Alan Hawksworth

46 SQUADRON

The last few months have seen a gradual change of organisation. **Maj David Etherton** took over command of the Squadron at camp from **Maj Terry Phillips** who has subsequently become Regimental Second in Command. **Capt Helen Burrows** (nee **Roy**) now has command of the Leicester detachment, and we congratulate her on her promotion from Lieutenant whilst at camp. Two very popular Squadron members having tested the excitment of TA life have successfully transferred to the regulars, **Pte Karen Gooding** reports to Guildford in December while **Sig Ian 'Chalky' Williams** has already started his training at Lichfield. We wish them both well and will miss the professional, cheerful and extremely smart guard on the gate at our functions—**Chalky** was well known and well liked throughout the Regiment and will no doubt be remembered for his pleasantries.

We welcome **2Lt Jane Heywood** from London UOTC and **OCdt Maureen Smith** in the area for a year from Glasgow UOTC. To both we extend a warm welcome and hope they enjoy their stay.

64 SQUADRON

The Squadron had a most successful camp, in no small part due to the 'Rent a Crowd' support. Particular mention must be made of the WRAC Tug-o-War team losing narrowly to HQ Sqn in the final—an all Sheffield pull!

LCpl Tina Edley was particularly unfortunate to turn her ankle during rounders and her determination to continue as Tug-of-War anchor was overruled by the MO. **WO2 (SSM) Bob 'Chariots of Fire' Shaw** ensured no-one who was uninjured failed the Tickle Test and the Squadron was awarded the Hawksworth Trophy (this year personally presented by the donor himself, our Honorary Colonel **Col Alan Hawksworth**). **2Lt Nick Greenan** spent the second week of camp training his Cambrian March team, drawn from the Regiment but with a substantial 64 Sqn nucleus. At the end of November **Nick** leaves to join the Royal Navy. We wish him well but a Sea King is no substitute for the Cambrian Yomp!

In November, **Maj Lachlan Fraser** from HQ 2 Sig Bde visited Sheffield and on behalf of Comd 2 Sig Bde, presented the Gill Salver to the Squadron. Well done **SSgt Harry Lomas** and his shooting team.

93 SQUADRON

The Squadron had a very successful camp at Penhale along with all the other elements of the Regiment, and achieved a high level of success in many activities. We won the Inter-Squadron Team Mate Trophy for the fifth time in seven years. This trophy is awarded to the Squadron amassing the most points in the military and communication skills competition. **SSgt Stan Fitzgerald** won the best 'individual' soldier award while **Sig Robin Fitzpatrick** was awarded the trophy for the best young soldier. We also won the Inter-Squadron Sports Trophy competing in such sports as Tug-o-War, Football, Badminton, Cross Country, Volleyball, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Rounders, Golf and Orienteering. **SSgt Di Feest** won the WRAC cross country trophy over an arduous Penhale course.

The Squadron also congratulates the following who were all promoted at camp: **Capt Alan Whittle, Sgts Barry Crewdon, Ken Bolgere, Paul Todd, Cpls Michael Bryan, James Walshe, LCpls Beverly Dawson** and **Stephen Webster.**

Since camp we have welcomed the arrival of **Capt John Newton** who joins us after six years in the RAEC. The Squadron now has officers from all three regular forces since he joins **Capt Roger Davenport**, ex Royal Navy and **Lt Jane Annison** ex WRAF.

We have said goodbye, albeit temporarily, to **Lt Sue Ridler** who is to work in Australia for six months—we wish her well and look forward to her return to TA duties. Similarly we hope for an early return fo the PSAO **Capt Ted Hall** after a successful operation in hospital and his current recuperation at Fulwood. Best wishes **Ted** from all the Squadron and we know we echo those of the Regiment and all your other friends in the Corps.

SSgt Di Feest receiving her cross country trophy from CO Lt Col Steve Coltman

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

RHQ PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col H. Grenville-Jones**
TM	**Maj C. R. Treeby**
QM	**Maj H. Meeking**
PSAO	**Maj R. A. MacHeath**
RSM	**WO1 J. C. Stone**
RQMS	**WO2 P. T. Atherton**
PVRO/MOVS	**WO2 J. Wilmot WRAC**
ORSQMS	**SSgt J. I. Harley**
FofS	**SSgt A. R. McCartney**
YofS (Trg)	**SSgt G. Oates**
YofS (Ops)	**SSgt W. Riding**
Tech	**Sgt A. J. Clarke**
	Sgt I. E. Rogers
MT	**Sgt D. R. Clark**
COs Dvr	**LCpl P. Morris**

Since our last appearance in the *Wire* the Regiment has seen several changes in personalities in the PSI side of life. We would like to say farewell to **Sgt Derek Whyle** and his family, and wish them luck with life in civilian life, to **Sgt Bob Innes** and family all the best in the Emerald Isle, and to **Sgt George Webb** on his posting to 233 Sig Sqn—short but sweet **George!** In their places we would like to welcome **Sgt Ian Rogers** from his T1, and **Sgt Tony Doherty** and his wife, and hope they enjoy being 'missionaries' to our Scottish Squadron, in Dundee. Our congratulations also to **Sgt Chris Marshall** on passing her Sergeants course at Guildford!, and to **Sgt Aggy** and **Ann Clarke** on the birth of their son.

SUMMER CAMP

In the days preceding Camp 1987, the cry went up from all members of the Regiment 'I don't know what it'll be like, but at least it isn't Scarborough!', and indeed it was not. After completing the mobilisation phase of Camp, each Squadron left its nice warm TA Centre for Westdown Camp, to arrive in a cold, and drizzly mist. Scarborough would have been like St Tropez in comparison.

Having arrived, everyone settled into their accommodation, having cleaned it first, and in the case of the Officers' having introduced themselves to the established residents of their Mess—little furry things known as mice, and big furry things known as rats! Worse was to come. A shuffling, reluctant queue of white, frightened people were soon to be seen entering Block 16 and re-emerging clutching their arms and grimacing with the pain. They have gone through the ordeal of . . . The Doctor. After that the preparations for phase one of Exercise Dog Bark 1987 were nothing. 2 (Dundee) and 5 (Banbury) Sqns eagerly unwrapped the pink ribbon from their shiny new equipment (more of that in the next issue) and all over camp the shouts of joy rang out, 'What's this bit for?', and 'Oh, look at the pretty orange flashing lights'. From this moment our D11's were definitely redundant, and after the initial euphoria came the

Camp 87—1 Sqn End of Camp Party
L to R: Pte Ann Brown, Capts Malcolm Bryan (improperly dressed again!), and Philip Moore (Assistant Ops Offr)

reminiscence of the fun we had had with the ageing, stubborn beasts.

Phase 1 consisted of a 48 hr exercise to get everyone in the swing of things and to give everyone a chance to test and learn new equipments. Three mobile radio detachments from 3 Sqn (Tunbridge Wells) were deployed to local military camps and TA Centres, whilst a combined 2/5 Sqn TRC was deployed to a site on Salisbury Plain. The Commcen provided by 1 Sqn (City of London), remained at Westdown with beds, baths, showers and flush toilets. Similar facilities were available to the mobile detachments, but the TRC had the pleasure of sleeping in tents which turned into swimming pools, the enjoyment of sliding about on Salisbury Plain mud, and the fun of chemical and field latrines, not to mention cold water to wash in (if they ever did!). Little sympathy was forthcoming from the luckier members of the Regiment, but rather a cry of 'If you can't take a joke then you shouldn't have joined'.

In spite of the weather, which could have been nicer, and the problems with land lines (and we'll not mention BT), much was achieved and everyone returned to camp confident (well, sort of confident, well, almost nearly convinced, well, OK then, praying) that the new equipment would work. A number of teething problems were identified during phase 1, and consequently M Tp were to be found on Stonehenge, in the middle of the night, prior to phase 2, performing strange pagan rites and chanting to everyone who would listen, 'Make it work, make it work, make it work . . .' After a sacrificial offering of burnt Instructional Manuals, M Tp and the rest of the Regiment cleaned and checked the kit, and enjoyed (each in their various ways) a few hours off.

Phase 2 began with the departure of some detachments overseas, no-one knew prior to camp who these lucky few would be, and after the dets were announced, people were to be seen disgruntedly handing pink shorts, and plastic flip-flops to their more fortunate companions.

Preparations in earnest were halted for a Drumhead Service, conducted by The Padre, in the cinema (or the emerging commcen). The (unaccompanied) strains of 'Fight the Good Fight' rang through the camp and were heard, we hope, by the Royal Artillery who were live firing over our heads at the time!

In addition to the det from 1 Sqn who went, ever so reluctantly, (well they hadn't been abroad for a whole year—so this was a novelty; could anyone remember what flying was like?), to Cyprus, and 3 Sqn to Germany (again!), 2 Sqn re-established their TRC at Westdown, while 5 Sqn moved west into the wild blue yonder ready to take over from 2 Sqn at a moments notice. Mobile detachments, primarily from 3 Sqn but including personnel from 1, 2 and 5 Sqns, moved to the Midlands, to occupy various TA centres throughout the area. The Regimental Commcen (alias 1 Sqn, assisted by operators from 2 and 5 Sqns) remained initially at Westdown Camp, on two hours notice to move.

Phase 2 lasted six days, during which time, the UK and Germany Detachments moved at least twice, the TRCs at least once, and the Commcen twice. The second Commcen move was an 'emergency evacuation', with the requirement that the Commcen was to crash out of its current location and be fully operational, 60 miles away, within four hours! Not an easy task, considering the amount of equipment concerned, the engineering of six protected line circuits, and the establishment, checking, and accounting of the equipment which partly accounts for our 'Special Communications' designation. However, much to everyone's expectation (well, sheer and utter surprise), the Commcen was established, as per requirements, with a whole 60 seconds to spare.

Communications were excellent, and we all returned to Westdown pleased with the success of the exercise, albeit tired and dirty. Camp ended with the usual round of jollies, packing up and finally, the thought of returning to those homes we left so long ago, and, for the TA, the realisation that on Monday we would have to go back to those jobs we had left, and clear the in tray! For many of the permanent staff the thought of leave and R&R was much on the mind!

CEREMONIAL

The Regiment is also fulfilling its ceremonial duties with all Squadrons providing marching contingents for local Remembrance Day Services. 1 Sqn providing two, one at Hackney (commanded by **Lt M. Bretton**) and one at Islington (commanded by **Capt M. Bryan**). The CO, **Lt Col H. Grenville-Jones,** accompanied by **WO1 (RSM) J. C. Stone,** and **Sgt P. Quince** (WRAC (V)) represented the Regiment at St Paul's Cathedral.

Saturday 14 November saw 26 members of the Regiment providing part of the Guard of Honour for the Lord Mayor of London outside the Mansion House. The Guard is made up of 63 individuals (male and female) from 39 Sig Regt (SC)(V), C Coy 4th Bn Royal Green Jackets, and The University of London OTC. Each year the overall command of the Guard changes, this year being the turn of UOTC, but the contingent drawn from all Squadrons within 39, was commanded by **Lt P. Willmott (1 Sqn).**

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1987

1987 saw many changes for the Regiment, firstly, in March we added to our name, and became the 39 (City of London) Sig Regt (Special Communications) (Volunteers), the addition of the title 'Special Communications' being in recognition of our role. We now have the longest Regimental title, not only in the Corps, but the British Army! (unless you know better), and everyone has been practising deep breathing, just to be able to say it all!

The summer saw delivery of the new Trend teleprinter, but not the PTAs, and although we can train on them, operationally they are of little use to us at present. We managed to borrow a number of PTAs at camp and it made life in the Commcen so much easier, with potted messages, and simple editing. Even Officers can use them!, with OC A Tp and OC B Tp both being caught by the Commander Comms. It also makes a lot of difference in terms of noise, with none of the chattering, normally associated with the T100.

In September M Troop delivered the new transmitter vehicles to our TRC Squadrons. Purpose built and designed to meet our role, they are unique, and represent a years work by TA technicians, assisted by our PSIs, which many Regular and other TA units would be unable to match.

September also saw the amalgamation of HQ and 1 Sqn into a single unit based at the Worship Street TAC in London. The new Squadron is almost twice the size of any of the other Squadrons in the Regiment, and is not only responsible for providing the Regimental Commcen, but also two mobile field detachments, and supporting the Regimental Command Post—which is not easy at the best of times.

In October 1987 it was announced that **Maj Mervyn Sharpe** the current 2IC will be our next Commanding Officer, in succession to **Lt Col Hugh Grenville-Jones** in March/April 1988. **Maj Ian Fisher,** previously OC 1 Sqn, took over as 2IC in November, and **Capt Nigel Keleher,** returned from leave-of-absence to command the new 1 Sqn.

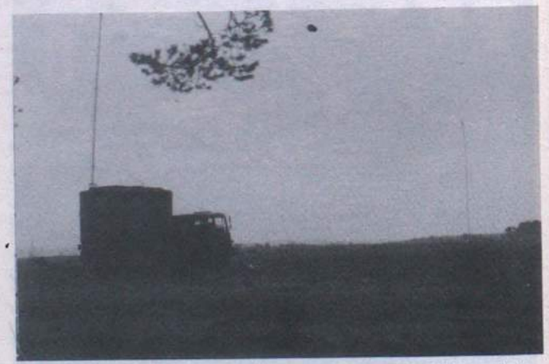
In November, we were issued our first specialist radios. This now gives us greater flexibility in operational training, and hopefully our current training equipment will be phased out. This initial issue will hopefully represent a major advance in our capabilities, and lead to the long awaited re-equipment of the Regiment.

Also in November, a new TA Centre was opened in Bletchley, near Milton Keynes. This new sub-unit serves as a Detached Troop of 5 Sqn, based in Banbury, and is commanded by **Capt John Fletcher,** formerly OC HQ Sqn.

1988 offers even more opportunities for us, and we will no doubt be grasping them. The Techs have embarked on yet another 'in house' project, and have identified yet another. Operationally, we'll be undertaking even more realistic exercises, and the issue of more specialist radio equipments will add to this.

Our Scottish Squadron, 2 Sqn based in Dundee, moves into its new purpose designed TA Centre in March, and this will certainly increase their capabilities.

It is hoped that 1988 will be even more successful than 1987, but one thing is certain, we're a Regiment that is going places!



Farewell to the D11—single D11 station on Barry Buddon during Ex Farne Deep in 1985

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

OPENING OF THE NEW JRC—THE BLACKTHORN

After many months of fund raising, panicking and the OIC JRC tearing his hair out, the newly renovated Junior Ranks Club was officially opened by the CO, **Lt Col Chris Shuker** on Saturday, 24 October.

The Blackthorn as it is now known, was launched at 2100 hrs after the CO's speech congratulating those who had put so much effort into the project.

The first pint was pulled and gulped down in true Ulster fashion by **Cpl Big Henry Blackwood,** the PMC, and chief bouncer and after the multitude of members who attended the opening had received their first drinks the evening got under way with a disco and buffet.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Under command of the Ops Officer, **Maj Harry Squance,** the Regiment marched from the TA centre, Clonaver Park to their Parish church, St Marks, Holywood Road, Belfast, on Sunday 8 November for the Annual Service of Remembrance.

The Regimental Flute Band led the parade of volunteers and members of the Northern Ireland Branches of The Royal Signals Association, the Parachute Assocation, The Royal Marines Association and the local Belmont Branch of The Royal British Legion.

The service was conducted by **Canon J. G. Moore** and the lesson was read by the CO, **Lt Col I. C. Shuker.**

During the service there was a wreath-laying ceremony and afterwards the Regiment marched past **Col J. E. Wilson OBE,** Honorary Colonel of the Regiment who took the salute.

After the parade, friends and relations of members of the Regiment and the Old Comrades Associations were entertained to lunch.

ARMY CADET OPEN DAY

An Army Cadet Open Day was held at the Depot Royal Irish Rangers, Ballymena, on Sunday 25 October with Cadet detachments from all over the province taking part in various military activitives.

The Regiment sponsored the Clonaver Park ACF and the local Dundonald ACF in a signaling competition based on radio relay, line laying, camouflage and defence in order to produce a visually interesting and exciting display.

It was decided that one of our PSIs, **Sgt 'Stevie' Cocksedge** would volunteer to train the cadets and after four Sundays of intensive training, the cadets were ready for action.

The open day was a tremendous success with the Signals stand reportedly being the most interesting. **Sgt 'Sammy' Lee** provided a running commentary and **SSgt 'Tommy' Caines** umpired the competitors. **LCpls Ken McAlpine** and **Dave Burgess** showed spectators around the equipment after each of the seven competition phases.

By the final phase it was level pegging with spectators shouting support and encouragement. The final phase consisted of packing up a triffid vehicle and free-standing mast, dismantling pole crossings, pulling in quads and de-scrimming the gun post and vehicles.

Clonaver ACF took 15 min 48 sec to finish only four seconds behind Dundonald ACF who became the overall winners. **Lt Col Chris Shuker** presented the prizes to both winners (and losers) and the cadets are looking forward to a similar day next year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Regiment wishes to thank sincerely RHQ Royal Signals, TAVRA Northern Ireland and the Regimental PRI for their very generous donations towards the cost of refurbishing the Junior Ranks Club.

The Regiment approaches the saluting dais

Cadet Open Day
The Cadets in action during the competition

Not a two-headed monster, but the cadets carrying out the pole crossing phase of the competition

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bromley

68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

The busy and varied life of the men and women of the Corps' Yeomanry Regt continues to cause amazement among our newly arrived regular soldiers. In this article you will see glimpses of how enthusiastic, talented and versatile the soldiers of the TA can be particularly when they are well served by high quality permanent staff. From Royal Visits to digging holes in the ground I'm sure you will agree the Yeomanry does it all in style!

RHQ

It is all change in RHQ with the Adjutant, **Capt Gareth Smith**, leaving for a well earned rest at the MOD and being replaced by **Capt Jeremy Wilson**. In addition the Training YofS, **WO2 'Wrecker' Turner** has gone on promotion to be RSMI at the Signal Wing, Sandhurst. The MTO and LAD are mightily relieved but **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Sparkes** couldn't handle the loss and has gone to AFCENT. We welcome **WO2 (YofS) Steve McMahon** and **WO2 (RQMS) Alan Hibberd** as their replacements.

The Regiment is also the worse for the resignation of **Capt Edward Keith**, the Assistant Adjutant/Film Producer. **Capt Keith** had the difficult decision of remaining in the Regiment or producing Ptarmigan equipment for the Corps. Unfortunately for us the latter was more lucrative.

On a more optimistic note the 2IC, **Maj Tony Verey** has been selected to command the Regiment in June 1988. His selection has nothing to do with his job in a brewing company (What discount?). One problem for the new RQMS will be providing a horse of suitable size and gentle temperament. Who could imagine a Yeomanry Colonel not riding?

68 (INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Reports from Annual Camp at Catterick are still scarce but IC&CY were seen, usually in some unique locations. A detachment of 30 Sig Regt was a most welcome addition and was treated to the finer points of Signalling, Yeomanry style. There was some amazement that the Regulars no longer use the hunting horn as a means of passing on the Squadron Leader's orders.

The Squadron as usual maintained its tradition of riding in the Lord Mayor's Show where **Capt Michael O'Beirne** provided that even technical officers can ride.

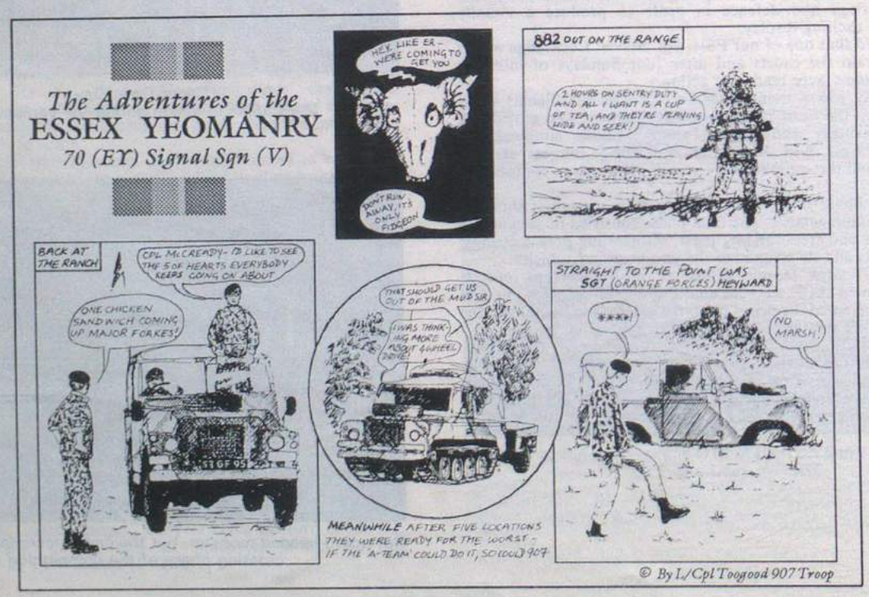
70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

Squadron Leader	**Maj Stephen Foakes**
Squadron 2IC	**Capt Kenneth Lloyd**
PSO	**Capt Jack Hatton**
SSM	**WO2 Ian Perry**

A change of management followed Annual Camp as **Maj Peter Oxford**, after seven years as Squadron Leader, handed over command to **Capt Stephen Foakes**. Other changes include the promotion of **SSM Ian Perry** who succeeds **SSM Eric Murphy** who was transferred recently.

Catterick provided a blustery venue for camp where Troops from Chelmsford, Harlow and Southend quickly established their own individual styles in fulfilling mobile field communications.



Lt **Jonathan Crowther** and 907 Tp developed an ability to choose sites which although tactically perfect, quickly became quagmires at the first hint of rain. Autumn in Catterick is not noted for its baking sunshine and 907 Tp seemed to be continually caked in that perfect camouflage medium, and were nicknamed 'The Mudlarks'.

Lt **Mike Evans** and 881 Tp echoed the RHA traditions of our Squadron as they galloped across the far flung extremities of the training area. Their enthusiasm for this role was such that they were never quite where visiting Staff expected them and when they were there, they would just be in the process of moving somewhere else. By such elusiveness, 881 Tp became known as 'The Phantoms'.

Lt **Paul Wooler** and 882 Tp preferred an entirely different style. They designed a method of discovering uncharted hollows, even in the most barren of heathland and would promptly disappear into them. This caused confusion to searching 'enemy' and 882 Tp were duly dubbed 'The Moles'.

As Squadron Headquarters moved with Main and Alternate sites, **Cpls Metcalfe** and **Scott** re-inforced the inner-man by preparing such delicacies as kippers followed by chinese egg rolls and lychees. The egg rolls were received with enthusiasm but the prospect of lychees and kippers for breakfast was met with a more conservative response.

Cpl Dave McReady introduced his 'card for the day' as a morale booster. The explicit nature of some of the material received 'divine' censure when he was tempted into being the first to sit on the only comfortable ablution to be found all week. Unfortunately, the Royal Engineers EOD had found it first and the term 'thunderbox' took on a whole new meaning. **Cpl McReady** emerged from the smoke chastened but unrepentant.

Cpl Fidgeon maintained his reputation as something of a buccaneer by adorning his vehicle with a ram's skull. Although he spent most of the exercise searching, the cross bones remained thankfully elusive.

In an exercise involving a high degree of mobility, it was inevitable that our REME LAD detachment of **Cpl Carpenter** and **LCpl Barkway** were kept relatively busy. It was therefore gratifying that when they slid off a track into the bosom of 907 Tp, we were able to repay, in a small way, all the help they had already given. This assistance included PSI **Sgt Chris Heyward** who demonstrated the old theory, that the amount of mud displaced by a landrover, is equal to the depth of bogged axle, squared.

Camp is now a fond memory and we are entering our winter training phase. 'Decus et tutamen'.

94 (BERKSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

'Nothing heard' from the depths of Windsor but the paymaster ensures me they are still drawing pay. They must be distraught over the impending departure of the Southampton PSI, **SSgt (Have Ski Poles, will travel) McIntosh**, who is on his way to civvy street. Want to join the TA, Staff?

265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

CAMP 1987

The arrival of the Camp Admin Tome from RHQ (now co-located with the Squadron) heralded a frantic rush to acquire equipment capable of performing the taskings.

Deciding for the second year in succession to leave behind our issue radio kit (large, green and weighing in at 4 tons) in exchange for FFR Landrovers, Clansman and Trend teleprinters, we headed North for the wild and woolly hills surrounding Catterick and moved into Wathgill Camp.

Collecting our FFRs we deployed to Shaiba Camp to make it work before Regiment gave the first of numerous movement orders. Ex Trend Setter was its name and RHQ was out to play games.

The introduction of a live enemy armed and slightly dangerous lent a sense (well nearly) of realism to the activities. Averaging one move a day the Squadron was kept on its toes for a complete week through, surprisingly enough not too inclement weather (what about the Wednesday night?).

The final denouement was the battle for Cordilleras Farm on a clear moonlit night. The Squadron was assaulted by elements of its own alternate headquarters who had nothing better to do at 2130 hrs.

Unfortunately for them the site was on a stand to and their initial volley was met with a sound not unlike the finale of the 1812 overture.

Upon discovering that their transport had also been nobbled by the defending forces, **Lt Richard Allen** and his force exchanged their freedom for some Dutch courage (I thought it was Websters).

The day off has resulted traditionally in our officers departing on 'Jewell's Tours' and either getting lost or stranded in exotic locations such as Boulogne or the Scilly Isles.

This year they were barred from straying further from Camp than Leyburn and spent the afternoon playing softball against the Squadron. **Pte Mhairi Keir** succeeding in nose butting the ball and despite a broken nose returned to the field of play.

The second week was Ex Final Fling which was **Maj Paul Acda**'s last exercise as Squadron Commander. Utilising the training areas to the full extent (well as far as were allowed to) **Lt Graeme Brown** led his Brown Force hither and thither towards the final showdown at Whinny Hill.

Pte Keir now sporting a nice line in 'Panda Eyes' and wanting to prove she could top her previous performance succeeded in falling off a drain pipe and broke her ankle. We hope for a speedy recovery.

Acda's Army deployed in strength around the town square. Brown Force left and right flanking began clearing the town until the defending force regrouped through the tunnels to the final redoubt in what used to be **Maj Kathy Howard**'s front garden.

The end was not far away and the combined strength of the two platoons led by **Sgt Gerry Cogger** and **O/Cdt James Giscombe** despite 'being wiped out', quote **Maj P. W. Acda** claimed the day.

LCpl Anne Duffy contemplating her next move

'Champions'—Team Captain, Sgt Terry Mundy holds aloft the London District TA Cup. 265 Sig Sqn have a fine record having won the Cup five times and been runners up twice

SHARPSHOOTER SHOOT OUT

This year's Annual match against our sister Squadron from the Royal Yeomanry was held at Pirbright. The team led by **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Bodman** wanted revenge for defeats in previous years.

The weather was calm and the adrenalin was flowing. Early results put us into the lead. The nerves held and at the end of Saturday a good lead has been established. Retiring to the Bisley Pavilion for an evening's entertainment and yet another barbecue resulted in a win on the Croquet Field.

This augured well for the final shoot on Sunday. It went well and led to our first victory.

The salver will be presented by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers at the KSY Dinner in November along with a tankard for each member of the team.

'Sharpshooters on Parade'—The Winning Team— *Back Left to Right:* Cpls Absalom, O'Brien, Penny, Symmons and Alderton *Front Left to Right:* Cpls Wrate, Paine, SSgt Penny, WO2 (RQMS) Bodman and Sig Precious

SIG GREEN APPEAL

The Squadron rallied round agin to raise £250 for **Sig Green** which we hope to present in December.

LUCY AND MOORE TROPHIES

These trophies are presented annually to the male and female member of the Squadron who have made the best contribution to the Squadron during the year. Presented by the Old Comrades Association of the Kent Yeomanry, this year's recipients are **Sig Ian Lapidge** and **LCpl Julie Barton**. Congratulations and many thanks to them both.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

After four years at the helm **Maj Paul Acda** has handed over the reins to **Maj David Hewer. Maj Acda** joined the Squadron in 1979 on the understanding that the position being offered to him was a 'limited commitment' some hope!

Taking over as OC '90 Sig Tp' and subsequently as Sqn 2IC and then OC Sqn he has seen us through major changes in our role, in a complete rebuild of our TAC and the 18 months we endured living on a building site. He leaves us having prepared a large part of the ground work for another change in our role and a complete re-equipment.

His enthusiasm, commitment, leadership and dedication to the Squadron and the soldiers under his Command have been a constant encouragement and have contributed greatly to the Squadron being a happy and successful team. We wish him well when he takes up his new appointment at Regimental Second in Command.

Corporals' Mess Dining Out of Maj Paul Acda

News from Squadrons

JCUFI
BFPO 655

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Manders**
2IC	**Flt Lt Alan Buckel RAF**
USM	**WO2 (USM) Mick Dunn**
UQMS	**Sgt Ian McAlroy**
Chief Clk	**Cpl Dave Grant**

Movement of personnel still at Mach Speed! **Cpl Dave Grant** has yet to find his office! OC **Maj Tony Manders** had a dip in the South Atlantic (is he still here) and the only thing that got cold were his feet. Does he wear a warmer? **WO2 Mick Dunn**'s fishing trips are now getting better as the messes are enjoying the spoils. Ever tried smoked sea trout?—the 'Gissit' of the USM.

Maj Gen A. N. Carlier Comd BFFI being met by the OC and USM

Cpl Jim Peat (Old Chief Clerk) talking to Comd BFFI

AIRFIELD CABLE CONTROL
PERSONALITIES

Line Sgt	**Sgt Steve Moore**
MT Rep	**LCpl Giffo Gifford**

The section has been rather busy of late with work going on at various sites around the islands, notably at Stanley where **Cpl Scouse Sartorius** and his crew have been replacing 'old' cables with new; Cable and Wireless, Government House and the newly opened Hospital being the locations of work carried out.

Sgt Steve Moore arrived back recently from his R&R in the Ascension Island with a complexion completely out of character for the wintry weather here.

Cpl Pete 'The Horse' Grunsell has had a big hand in helping to re-form the motor cycle club and has also been spotted canoeing in and around the inlets looking for escape routes, never mind **Pete**, your on your way now, Cheerio!

Airfield Cable Control
Back Row L to R: Sig Nick 'Smooth' Oliver, LCpl 'Stig' Richards, Cpl Pete 'Horse' Gruncell, Sgt Steve 'Cruthes' Moore, LCpl 'Nice Boy' Gradwell, Cpls 'Scouse' Sartorius and Phil Pett
Front Row L to R: Sig Chris Fallon, Richie 'Jug Ear' Gathercole, Simon 'Piggy' Meyers, Capt (TOT) Brian Billsberry, LCpls 'Mick' Mottram, 'Giff' Gifford, Sig Andy Graham and 'Bert' Reynolds

Sig Simon Meyers will be missed by the Troop mainly for the entertainment he provided with his choice of videos, not so much the videos as comments and good humoured banter on his choices.

Also a cheerio to **LCpl Mike 'Muttley' Mottram** who will be missed not least of all for his late night 'hospitality'!

Newcomers to the Troop being **Sig Ritchie Gathercole, Nick Oliver, LCpl Sean Filer** and **Stig Richards**. The latter volunteered for his second tour in less than four months which all goes to show that some people do like the place or maybe are missing a little upstairs.

SYSCON

The beginning of August saw us saying 'Goodbye' to **Cpl Ako Atkinson** and welcoming **Cpl Kev Hayfield** to 'the land of the cross-eyed dog'.

Mid-August and **FofS Bob West** was forced to fly all the way back to UK for a 'Briefing' (he suggested he 'Phoned Home' like everyone else). Naturally he resisted all the advice, but was finally forced up the steps of the big gozome bird (Tri-star to those still to do a tour) kicking and screaming. On his return one week later he looked crestfallen that everything was still functioning correctly (or he may have been exhausted by all the 'Briefings').

Cpl Dennis Ball left to wild applause from some of the male contingent of MPA, whilst reports that all the women on Station went into mourning remain unconfirmed. His departure heralded the arrival of **Cpl Wayne Ratcliffe** who was promptly tucked under the wing of **Cpl Paddy Philips**, never to be seen again.

All in all August was a fair month; maintaining comms down here is much like driving down the MPA/Stanley Road—occasionally you find a smooth patch, then just as you begin to relax the pot holes appear, then it's anyones guess as to what will happen next—especially as the FofS has 'lost' his driving licence in the post, so who's going to do the steering?

FITS TEAM

The FITS Team (probably the most overworked yet underpaid members of JCUFI!) comprises 8 Radio Relay Techs and 7 Combat Powermen. They are responsible for the provision and maintenance of microwave comms throughout the Falkland Islands.

The team is a part of Charlie (Cable and Maint) Tp which is presently commanded by **Capt Brian (It costs me money to be down here) Billsberry** who, when not pricing shotgun cartridges or dining with the Governor, can be found under a mountain of Comms paperwork in his office.

Although grossly overworked the FITS Team can always find a spare minute to attend a social gathering as was evident recently when a 'gozome' was held to say farewell to **Sgt Mark (Striker) Edwards** leaving on posting to NI. A good night was enjoyed by all.

Life in the Team is usually very hectic and most mornings see teams of techs and powermen rushing away to various parts of the Island to rectify faults (If RSMRO is reading this more men would be very welcome!)

Recent departures include: **SSgt Parsons, Sgts Edwards, Newman, LCpl Crook** and **Sig Marritt.** Arrivals include: **SSgt Stonier, Cpls Povey, Griffen, LCpls Hyland, Bolton** and **Sig Parker.**

FITS Team

Seated L to R: Cpl Shaw, Sgts Edwards, Williams (SNCO IC Power), Capt (TOT) Billsbery (Tp OC), SSgt Stonier (FITS SNCO), Cpls Callaghan and Lee

Standing L to R: LCpl Hyland, Cpl Scanlon, LCpls Bolton, Hodgson, Sig Marritt, LCpls O'Shea, Gowland and Cpl Swithenbank

BRAVO TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt (Tfc) Bill (Argie Tour) Ritchie**
2IC	**WO (RS) Ron Phipps RN**
CDA NCO	**FSgt Dave Stephens RAF**
DSO A Shift	**RS Taff Conway RN**
DSO B Shift	**Sgt Mick Newell**
DSO C Shift	**Sgt Sandy Lumsden RAF**
PO Wren	**POWRS Norma Louth**

Bravo Tp consists of 42 people (eight of whom are female), and is responsible for running the Joint Communications Centre Falklands Islands, and the Cryptographic Distribution Agency. There is an almost equal mix of Army, Navy and Air Force appointments within the Troop, so it really is Tri-service. The Troop also receives a monthly supplement of two RNR girls on training.

Turnover in the Troop is, of course, high due to four month roulement tours, and the Troop recently said farewell to **Capt Stan (where's the NAAFI waggon) Howard,** and welcomed **Capt Bill Ritchie.** By the time these notes go to press **Capt Ritchie** will have been replaced by **Capt Jack Cowen. Capt Howard** departed to collect his family from York and move them to BAOR, and we wish them all well for their future tour in Germany.

Life for most of the Troop is geared around the routine of working on a three way shift, but many manage to get out and about on bimbles or helicopter trips during their off-duty periods. **Sig Campbell** and **SAC Kedge** recently departed for an eight day exchange trip on HMS *Diomede* so everyone is stood by for a light swinging session on their return. **LRO 'Perry' Mason** recently displayed the photographs he took on a bimble to Penguin Walk, but his camera appears to have been focused on **WPte Angie Tilley, WPte Andrea Mangham** and **SACW Tina Dalton**—what happened to the penguins **'Perry'?**

The Troop has just been visited by a Switch study team from CPD in the form of **Mr Martin Sheppard** and **Capt (TOT) Henry Connord.** They have now done their sums and concluded that AMS is certainly a viable proposition due to the high traffic loading of the Commcen, and have now returned to the UK to write the justification for a switch which will handle both normal and internal distribution to the various comms sites around the Islands. The long term benefits of having AMS will be fewer DTgs having to do roulement tours; therefore, less strain on already overstretched units having to give up personnel. So you DTgs who wish to sample the delights of the Falkland Islands, volunteer now before the machine begins to take over!

'TRI service punch up'. Sig 'Ossie' O'Dell, SACW Helen Keith and WRO Sue Mellors RNR hard at work

Exchange operator WPte Beverley McAully at work

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. K. Ewbank**
2IC	**Capt R. F. M. Cousins**
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	**SSgt J. Hall**
OC B Tp	**Lt I. Hooper**
OC C Tp	**Capt B. F. Avison**
TCO	**Capt K. Meakin RCT**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. C. Air**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) C. S. J. Phillips**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) C. Newby**
QMSI	**WO2 (QMSI) G. R. Bryson**
Ch Clk	**Sgt P. K. Eccles**

Mention must be made of those who hoped to slip away quietly in the post Purple Warrior haze. **Capt Alan Madsen** vacates the 2IC's chair to become Adjutant of 14 Sig Regt. The Squadron wishes him (and them) the best of luck and hopes that **Capt Bob Cousins** will see fit to return at some stage to take over. MT is also 'under new management' as TCO (TCFO?!) **Capt Gerry Morgan** and **WO2 Dave Smith** hand over to **Capt Keith Meakin** and **SSgt Mike Farell** respectively. Finally **2Lt Neil Fraser** leaves for his TC course at Blandford. A Tp wish him good luck with his driving test and the Squadron thanks him for his sterling efforts as OIC Crypto rear link!

EXERCISE PURPLE WARRIOR

Those who have been blissfully unaware of events in Scotland lately—read on. Ex Purple Warrior was a Joint 'Out of Area' exercise held in the Irish Sea and South West Scotland during November. The exercise was conducted within a scenario of limited aggression by a neighbour against a fictional UK protected Island Group 'Kaig'.

The exercise involved the deployment of the Joint Force HQ and 5 Bde plus most of 6 GR and 45 Cdo RM who were tasked to provide enemy forces. 1 Inf Bde was responsible for providing the neutral organisation to support Orange forces and the umpires and elements of the directing staff.

Enter 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (plus Atts), tasked with providing communications for neutral, Orange and umpire elements. As the exercise grew in stature and the date drew nearer, the Squadron 'press gang' raided barrack blocks, cells and hospital beds in search of men, 'what do you mean you're ill—you can breathe can't you?' Equipment to supplement the Squadron's own was begged and borrowed. Eventually 110% of the Squadron deployed leaving Jellalabad Barracks a ghostly place (similar to any normal weekend).

First to arrive in sunny Stranraer was QM, **Capt Stan Hargreaves** and party, faced with the task of providing tented accommodation for up to 1,800. Comments by the Main party, arriving a week later—'Tell you what RQ—lucky all those tents were there!' were not well received.

As the balance of the Squadron arrived everyone adjusted to their own particular circumstances. These varied from **Cpls 'Paddy' Flanagan** and **Bob Dillet**, who were a little put out that they had to share their hotel suite on Arran, to the 'unsung heroes' of the hilltop rebros who, if they weren't sinking were generally airborne!

As the 'Tentreps' came in, 'Hello Ø this is 41D GR 427291 Tent GR 481277 moving east', so the ever-ready Rebro resup team, motto 'who dares—sinks', leapt into action. Unfortunately they too fell foul of the 'up to the axles' syndrome. As the 'Bogreps' came in, all were warned by OC Sqn, **Maj John Ewbank**, to exercise care, as no more recovery would be sent out. An object lesson in 'tempting fate' followed as with a squelch heard all the way from Stranraer the OC joined the ranks of the 'stuck at GR . . .'. Despite chorus's of 'But you said . . .' recovery was despatched only to arrive eight hours later with the spurious excuse—'stuck in a traffic jam, Sir', Yes, of course.

Other hazards encountered included waking up to find your Rebro under attack by members of your own Squadron accompanied by the BBC. Stay tuned for **Sgt Mick Boyle**'s 'Go ahead Laffey make my day' and **Cpl 'Jonno' Johnson**'s 'Yo'. Rumours that the whole thing was started by **Sig Bergen Bowskill**'s 'Come up and see me sometime' have been strongly denied.

As the Rebros battled against the elements so the staff of Comms Coord fought a foe far greater—the Daily PWIT. None were safe from **Cpl George Coffin, Sigs 'Billy' Barnes** and **Jim Grimes'** campaign of mis-information, libel and defamation of character. Contemporary issues addressed include 'why has **Capt Bruce Avison** absconded with the OC's kit?', 'why has the RSM spent the entire exercise locked in a cell (why has no-one thought of this before?)',

'why did **Lt Ivan Hooper** take the duty officers bleeper on his night patrol?' and 'why did **2Lt Neil Fraser** spend four hours standing on the HLS clutching a bag of bricks?'. Look out for the PXR copy of the Daily PWIT. 'Twenty things you'd like to do to the PWIT team'. Tipped as a steal at 25p by **Sgt Jim Monkman**.

On a relatively balmy Thursday afternoon on 28 October in a hangar belonging to the RAE West Freugh in the Scottish Lowlands our QM, **Capt Stan Hargreaves**, came face to face with **Eric Preston**!

It was his sixty-fifth birthday, his last day at work and his wedding anniversary so his work-mates decided to buy him 'a wee dram' before he left work for the last time.

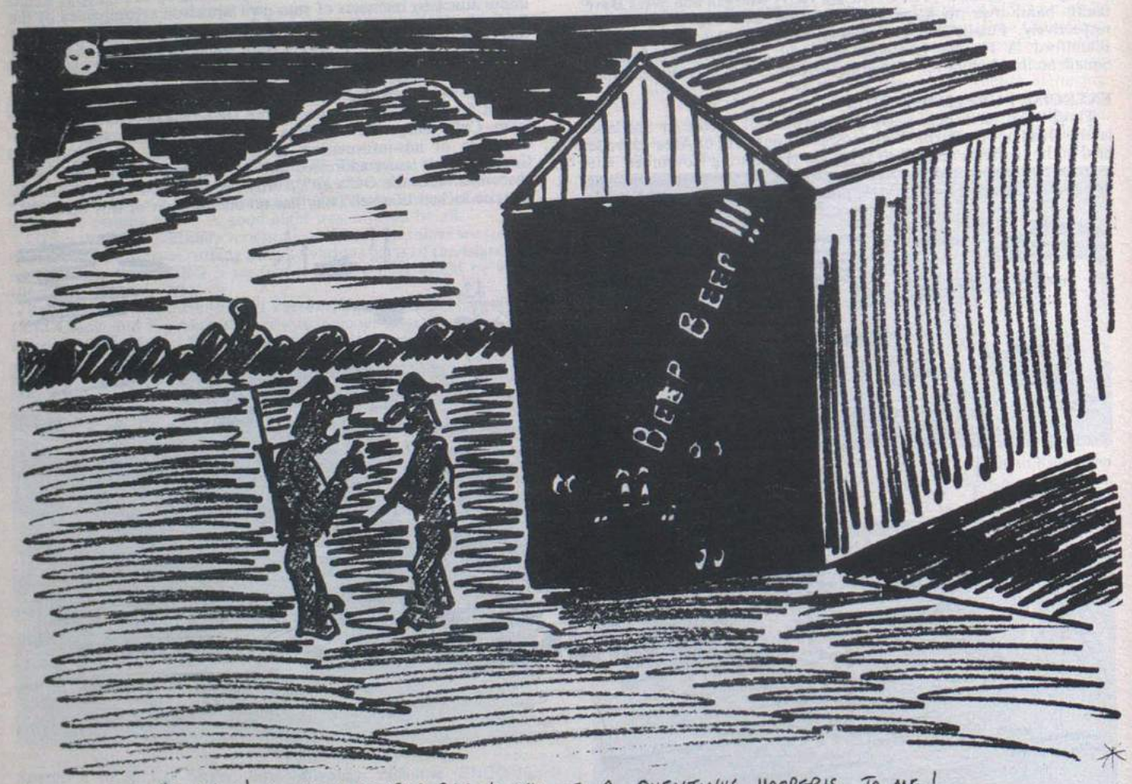
Eric is one of life's likeable characters and it transpires that he is an ex-member of the Corps and very proud of it. So much so that he was trying to pinch **Cpl 'Geordie' Edminson**'s beret and badge!

As the QM was feeling in a generous mood he decided to give him a beret as a keepsake but by the time he returned to the Squadron canteen tent **Eric** had gone.

On speaking to one of his relatives he discovered that **Eric** joined up in December 1941 and ended up in Europe towards the end of the war. His claim to fame is that he was captured by the Germans in Holland but only for two hours!

He was apparently wheeling a wheelbarrow (after all he was a driver!) with a wounded comrade in it when he bumped into the Germans. They took him prisoner and were taking him back to their HQ only to be captured in turn by a squad of British soldiers some two hours later.

The photograph shows **Eric** being presented with his beret in the West Freugh Social Club after presentation of his farewell gifts by his work-mates and friends.



5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

Members of the Squadron about to 'mount' for a drop on Hankley

EXERCISE PURPLE WARRIOR

Ex Purple Warrior was one of the largest exercises in Britain since World War 2. It simulated the rescue of endangered British Nationals from the mythical island of Kaig. The method of entry of the rescue forces of 3 Cdo Bde and 5 AB Bde were by sea and air. The majority of troops were landed from ships whilst the Leading Parachute Battalion Group (LPBG) of 5 AB Bde jumped in.

In reality Kaig was the Galloway area of South West Scotland and the bulk of the Brigade was transported there by sea under the watchful eye of the Royal Navy.

The Signal Squadron personnel were split between the good ships *Hamburg, Noronna* and the *Sir Tristram*. For those 'lucky lads' on the *Hamburg* and *Noronna* all the normal civilian facilities were laid on for the men. One of the main events of the 'cruise' was the impromptu 'Prawn eating contests' that broke out each lunch-time. We have it on good authority that **WO1 (FofS) Jackson** won by a 'porky scratching'.

During the week the Squadron was afloat on the way up to Kaig time was usefully filled with First Aid lessons, Map Reading, NBC and **WO1 (RSM) Harper**'s lesson on '1001 ways to string somebody up'. The 'cruise' was enjoyed by all

One or two of the lads escaped the pampering aboard ship. **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** arrived in Kaig by parachute and **Cpl Chris McGinley** arrived by TALO (Tactical Airland Ops). The parachute assault went very well, at least that is what the Russian observers thought. So with the Air Assault completed it was time for us on the ships to give up our nice warm, dry accommodation and swap it for the unpredictable weather of Western Scotland.

ALPHA TROOP

Troop OC	**Capt Colin McGrory**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt John Cakebread**
Troop Sgts	**Sgt Nidge Barnett**
	Sgt Dave Catchpole

Papa Gp was off-loaded first. Papa is the Brigades step-up HQ, designed to hold command for short periods of time. For a period during the off-load, there was some confusion but under the watchful eye of the OC Sqn, **Maj Shipley, Cpl O'Driscoll** got the show on the road. **Cpl Pete Bauress** was trying to keep his hair dry and **LCpl Joe Flood** and his RATT det got their priorities right by getting a brew on. By the time **Sgt Nidge Barnett** arrived all the nets were in and working.

Papa Gp just hanging around aboard 'Noronna'

Reverse on to that thing?—you must be joking!

The Brigade staff arrived and went to bed! Next day Oscar Gp off-loaded and moved into their positions. Oscar is the Main HQ for the Brigade, normally just some 20 vehicles, but everyman and his dog must have heard how good the cruise was going to be and they all ended up at Oscar.

As the rain fell the complex sank and everything was covered in mud except the Ops Officer, **Capt Knoble** and **SSgt (YofS) Roden** (Mr Schermuly), who both disappeared into the heavens. Puff! **Capt McGrory** on his first real exercise with the unit could not believe the size of Oscar—Billy Smarts got bigger and bigger. Meanwhile Papa Gp found itself in a barn, with all the comforts of home. At one time we thought we had been map reading with the map upside down as the QM and his gang descended upon us. All the way from BMA (Bags more amenities)—Brigade Maintenance Area actually. While the two complexes were having a good time in the mud the RRBs, under the direction of **SSgt John Cakebread**, were having their own fun in the hurricane force winds. **LCpl J. J. Walker** and **Sig 'Scouse' Ramsden** of the wide awake RRBI watched in disbelief as the elevated

Sgt 'Nidge' Barnett holding Papa together

Cpl Bauress about to have a nervous breakdown

The edge of Oscar with 'Staff Sleeps' in the background

VHF antenna unscrewed itself. **Sig 'Scouse' Bowe** and **Sig 'Bow' Bohanne** fought off the enemy at least twice a day. **LCpl 'Dougy' Craig** and **LCpl Tom Keville** were heli-lifted in with their FFR RRB trailer, only to see it slip off the sand channels and into the mud. Then to cap it all they were caught in more hurricane force winds which threw their antenna around the countryside.

Finally, the combined forces of the Para and the Commandos proved too much for the enemy and they all ran off into the distance. The conquering forces headed south for the warmer climes of Aldershot or Plymouth. The lucky people went by air, but for the rest of us it meant another cruise on the good ship *Noronna*. If I ever see another prawn again I'll . . .

BRAVO TROOP—BMA

Bravo Tp provides Radio, Line and Power detachments for the Brigade Maintenance Area (BMA) of 5 AB Bde. The BMA is run by 5 AB Bde Logistic Bn which consists of 82 Ord Coy RAOC 10 Fd Wksps REME and 63 Sqn RCT.

OC BMA (Royal Signals) is **Lt 'Jaffa' Smith** an ex BAOR Officer who is soon to attempt P Coy (lucky boy!). BMA's 2IC is **SSgt 'Grumble' Humble**, ex 216 Para Sigs and never been to BAOR—yet! 3IC is the newly promoted **Sgt 'Bob' Nixon** (ex 14 Sig Regt). Then of course there are the rest of us, the 'Pond Life'. A special mention for the new lads just out of Harrogate—**Sig 'Tam' Dick** and **Sig 'Jason' Tinnion**. The 'real world' looms ahead for them—P Coy in January.

Apart from the Dunker Ex Purple Warrior has been the highlight of the past few months and has proved a good grounding for all the Troop who had not taken part in a large exercise before. Many points were hoisted aboard by the new members of the Troop. In particular—detchment siting (**Lt Smith**). For one particular detachment it was difficult enough getting in but getting out proved to be a real problem. **SSgt Humble** to the rescue—quote 'I'll drive, step aside Corporal' unquote. Needless to say the SSgt got the Rover bogged in only to be heard to ask quote 'this is low ratio isn't it?' unquote.

The Commcen which is one of the main parts of Bravo on Exercise was, as ever, efficiently run by **Cpl 'Tommy' Taylor** and **LCpl Langley**, with assistance from **Sig Tinnion**. The Line det led by **Sig 'Ricky' Richards** had it rough. Between stags they managed 18 hours sleep a day, which was good news for **Cpl Steve Boyter** our Long Look exchange soldier from Australia. As if the cold was not enough his Aussie boots split—QM to the rescue and saved the day with a pair of *British* boots. Technical cover was provided by **Cpl 'Matt' Wigley** out of hospital after an operation and **Cpl 'Taff' Wilce** soon to sit his T1 entrance exam. Power was eagerly provided by **LCpl Pete Fearn** and his new assistant **Sig Jay Curry**, two more of the 18 hour sleepers.

The various radio links were provided by both RTgs and DTgs on the RATT Dets. To name but a few **Cpl Eric Udell, LCpl 'Taff' Thomas, LCpl 'Stan' Stanmore, Sig 'Lost Comms' Hails, Cpl Rod Cowan, Sig 'Sid' James** and **Sig Phil Smithurst**. For the future Bravo Tp looks forward to when the 'Linies' are posted to TM Tp, and we say goodbye to **Cpl 'Bernie' Bernstein** who is posted to A Tp. Best of luck. Also goodbye to Aussie **Steve Boyter**, best of luck back in the bush.

TM TROOP

Since our exploits in Cornwall the Troop has settled back down to normal troop life. Warm welcomes to **Sgt Lockert, Cpl Paton** and **Sig McGovern** (yet another Jock). Congratulations are in order firstly for **Cpl Archer** on being in both winning teams for Commanders Cup and The Bridgade Stretcher Race. **Sig 'Scoring' Woodward** on passing P Coy and his jumps. To **Sig Day** who is at present doing his jumps after passing P Coy. On the sports front **Sgt Black** (The Manager) and **Cpl Wigley** both played for the Squadron Football Team with **Cpl Chapman** and **LCpl Fearn** representing the Squadron at cross-country. Since our last report most of the time has been spent either on block leave or providing the normal excellent technical cover for the Squadron in barracks and on exercises. The two main exercises being Ex Roaring (Boring) Lion and Ex Purple Warrior. The latter being best described as a week's holiday cruise on a ferry with a week's camping in Scotland. On a more light-hearted note **WO1 (FofS) 'Red Baron' Jackson** completed his hang gliding course and **Sgt 'Smoke Stack' Crozier** has mounted a fresh air campaign. Finally a sad farewell to **Cpl Calder** who has passed RCB and is going to the factory at Sandhurst to become a leader of men. Best wishes for the future.

THE SQUADRON VISITS THE 'DUNKER'

Some time ago in the dim and distant past of the Squadron OC's Monday morning conference, the RSM, **WO1 Jess Harper** looked up with that 'I've just had a great idea' look in his eyes. We all groaned in anticipation. 'I think the Squadron should all go through the Dunker' he murmured. 'The what?' we shouted. That is where it all started. 'The Dunker' is what the Royal Navy use to train their helicopter aircrews in underwater escape techniques. It is a mock-up of a Lynx helicopter that can be dunked and rotated in a swimming pool while the unlucky occupants thrash around inside. So in October the Squadron was taken down to RNAS Yeovilton, troop by troop and dept by dept. Jumping out of aircraft is one thing, being strapped in a box and pushed under water—well that's something else entirely. After a short presentation by the Royal Navy Staff who run the Underwater Escape Training Unit at Yeovilton we moved out into the helicopter simulator suspended above a 9m pool of water. There were four drills to complete:

Drill 1. A confidence drill where the simulator was immersed so the water was up to our necks. Harnesses were released and we escaped through the hatches.

Drill 2. Total immersion of the simulator to the bottom of the pool. The main tip here was to take a deep breath.

Drill 3. A little harder this time. The simulator was immersed and then spun through 180°. With a hand grip on the helicopter body and the other one ready to release the harness, people began to escape with a greater sense of urgency.

Drill 4. Same as the third but in complete darkness causing total confusion and an element of panic.

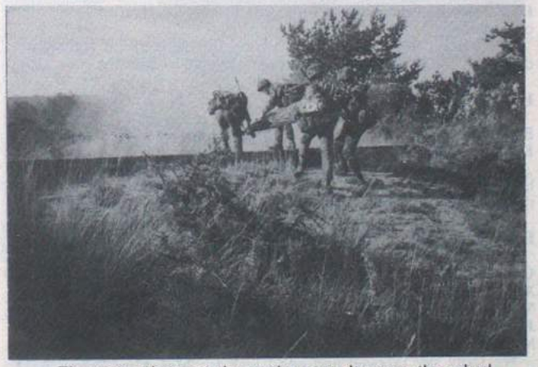
Relieved and contented with the thought that we now have an 84% better chance of surviving, so they tell us, the successful ones collected a certificate and we returned to Aldershot. Thank you very much RSM—what has he got in store for us next?

5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE STRETCHER COMPETITION

Each year 23 Parachute Field Ambulance organises the Brigade Stretcher Competition. The competition is designed to test Brigade units in their ability to treat and recover casualties from the battlefield. This year's competition was held in local training areas on 29 October. The course comprised of two written tests, a navigation exercise (NAVEX) and a simulated casualty (SIMCAS) treatment, more NAVEX (the usual mode of transport within the Brigade being the leather personnel carrier kind), anti-ambush drills, casualty reassessment and the obligatory 180lbs stretcher race (Yes 23 PFA managed to include Flagstaff Hill in the route).

Twenty-four teams from the Brigade entered and the competition was of the highest standard and extremely fierce. Twelve soldiers from the Squadron went through a thorough three day preparation, administered by **Cpl Frank Kurthausen**. It was decided to give youth its fling and the chosen eight young thrusters proceeded to win the competition outright. A Coy 1 Para was beaten into second place by a mere three points and HQ Bty 7 RHA finished third. The Squadron OC was later found guilty of wearing the biggest smile in the Brigade over the next few days.

Team: **Cpls Archer, Cowan, McGinley, LCpls Keville, Rowlands, Smith 051, Whale** and **Wood**. Well done lads.



The team about to throw the casualty over the edge!

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	**Capt 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

Highlights of a busy period include assistance to the local community, Op Abogado and the inaugural inter-troop PT competition.

RSM'S FAREWELL

At the end of August the WOs and Sergeants' Mess were obliged to Court Martial the President of the Mess, **WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet** at a dinner night prior to his departure on the following 'charges':-

That he did agree with the OC to hold Monday morning parades thereby inconveniencing the WOs and SNCOs.

That he did agree with the OC that all heads of departments attend coffee in SHQ thereby depriving the WOs and SNCOs of toast in the mess.

That he did achieve such standards that he was recommended and subsequently selected for commissioning thereby deserting the WOs and Sergeants' Mess.

The RSM was found qulity on all three counts and was fined a round of drinks, not exceeding £100, banished from the mess and presented with a commissioning sword.

But on a serious note we wish **Alex** and **Jean** and their family all the best for the future.

Judge, Jury and executioners of the Court Martial

WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet being presented with his sword

SQUADRON SUMMER BALL

The organisation of the squadron summer ball was again placed in the capable hands of **Capt Fred Connor** and **SSgt Brian Mountain**. With the outline planning competed before summer block leave few problems were expected during the weeks leading up to the Ball. Post exercise commitments changed all that. However, several telephone calls made from our exercise location and frantic work by **SSgt Sandy Campbell** back in Colchester ensured that the Ball would go ahead, albeit on a different day than planned. The evening was a great success as all those who attended, in particular those who danced on into the morning will testify.

ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

In the wake of the gales which battered the South and South East of England on the night of Thursday 15 october, Colchester Garrison was tasked to aid the community. The squadron's major tasks were to restore essential power supplies to local farms and old peoples homes. **LCpls Baz Plumpton, Paul Merrifield, Sig 'Taff' Llewellyn, Andy Mortlock, 'Lurch' Lumsden** and **Al 'Boy' Garrard** all put in a great deal of work and their efforts were very much appreciated by those they helped. Meanwhile the remainder of the squadron continued with the more mundane work of cleaning the debris and traffic routes around the garrison and local areas.

INFANTRY SECTION CUP COMPETITION

The annual Inf Sect competition contested by all units of 19 Inf Bde took place early in November. In previous years the competition has been held prior to summer block leave but this year dates complied with the Comds training directive to improve the Brigade's operational capability at night. So with a good record in the competition and four weeks intensive training ahead Section Commanders **SSgt Dave Parry** and **Sgt Steve Rook** were expected to produce two good teams capable of winning the competition.

All aspects of infantry training were covered with emphasis placed on physical durability and night navigation. Much of the training was based on the experienced gained by competition vetrans **LCpl's Mark Rouse, 'Chod' Bronniman** and **'Oggy' Odgen** who were part of last year's team who were runners up. With a large squad competition for places remained fierce right up until the completion of training when the following teams were selected:-

Team A: SSgt Dave Parry, Cpl Chris Holmes, LCpls Glen Drew, 'Spotty' Hinchcliffe, 'Chod' Bronniman, Paul Merrifield, Sig Louis Plested, Phil Webster and **Cfn Skid Wilkes.**

Team B: Sgt Steve Rook, Cpls Andy Davie (now Sgt), Mark Bendall, LCpls 'Oggy' Odgen, Dave Bowser, Dave Farey, Sig 'Lurch' Lumsden, Curt Curtis and **Pte Gaz Barker**.

The competition began for the 35 teams with a strict inspection and CFT followed by a series of military standards during a 15km work around Colchester Garrison. At the end of the afternoon teams were ferried to Stanford Training Area (STANTA) for a night patrol using the Chief of Staffs SAS sketch map. **LCpl 'Chod' Bronniman** complained bitterly that the map was inaccurate until shown that it was a tracing from a 1:50000 map of the area. **Sgt Steve Rook** queried his location with a member of the DS and proudly produced his smuggled 1:25000 map to prove his point. Day 2 consisted of a further day patrol and military stands including a communications stand at which both teams excelled coming first and second. During the second night teams embarked on a night patrol through enemy held territory completing an assault river crossing and dealing with an enemy ambush. An assault course followed the night patrol prior to the jounrey back to Colchester for the final effort of the March and Shoot.

Despite some creditable first placings on the Initiative Test, Comms Stand and Map Reading, our overall performance lacked the consistency to challenge for the top places. Our final placings of seventh (Team A) and nineteenth (Team B) again maintained our good record in the competition and all involved deserve praise.

OP ABOGADO

Throughout November the Squadron took on the commitment of Op ABOGADO from 30 Sig Regt who were totally committed on Ex Purple Warrior. It required a total of seven FFR detachments, each with up to six different radios, and crews to be on standby to go anywhere in the country. After a series of briefings it seemed likely that the operation would be called in Scotland sometime in the middle of November. The call out system that was introduced ensured that all personnel were in barracks within two hours when a practice call out was held over the weekend of 7-8 November.

Although the operation was never called the enormous amount of work that went into the preparation and presentation of the vehicles was worthwhile.

INTER TROOP PT COMPETITION

As part of the squadron's new lean mean image, the OC tasked the 2IC **Capt Fraser Grant** to organise an Inter Troop PT competition based on the APFA. SO2 G3 (PT) **Maj Martindale** supervised the competition with a group of volunteer PTI's from other Garrison units.

Papa Tp was put through its paces first and set a high average score of 113.9 points for everyone to beat. **LCpl Ian Ormerod** top scored in two disciplines with 22 heaves and 32 dips on his way to the best individual score of 208 points, just out pacing **Maj Graham Kerr** with 206 points, who top scored with 70 sit up on the inclined bench.

Only SHQ was to seriously challenge Papa troop for first place and triumphed by a very small margin with an average of 114.89 points. **Sig Phil Webster** top scored with 84 points in the 1.5 mile run. The trophies and cash prizes will be presented by the Comd during his farewell visit to the squadron.

SQUADRON SPORTS

FOOTBALL

The Squadron team have been involved in two competitions so far this season. Sadly our cup run has come to an end but our involvement in the EDist league will undoubtedly continue to a very late point in the season.

Training began under the bespectacled **Sgt Chris Allen** while **SSgt Bob Berry** RCT was away being educated. As soon as fitness training was included in the training session, the squad was depleted by an exodus of players back to the twice weekly squadron PT sessions. The team is very definately under new mamagement. Results to date are:-

MCTC	won	3—2	League
156 Pro Coy	won	13—1	Cup
MCTC	lost	7—4	Cup
42 Ord Coy	lost	5—2	League
19 Fd Amb	drew	2—2	League

Notable performances have come from **Sgt Colin Jackson, Cpl Geordie Teasdale, LCpls Dave Bowser, Mark Rouse, Sig Rod Helps** and not forgetting **Capt Fraser Grant**.

Finally a word of thanks to the supporters club, namely **Cpl 'Brian Clough' Petty** who also acts as the team's first aid man.

SQUASH

No inter unit matches have been played to date but a heavily contested inter troop competition has thrown light on some undisclosed talent. In the first semi final Oscar Tp defeated November Tp convincingly 5—0 with a five game thriller between **Cpl Tim Hayter** (O) and **Sgt Bob Drysdale** (N) being the highlight. In the other semi final an assortment of players from MT, Q and Papa Tp and D and E came from behind to defeat SHQ and LAD 3—2. This left the squadron's best player, **Sgt Colin Jackson** on the balcony for the final.

The first game of the final went to Oscar Tp when **Cpl Tim Hayter** defeated **WO1 Graham Jesty** but not before the MTWO entertained all in attendance with his comic performance. **Capt Fred Connor** and **LCpl Mick Bantin** also won for Oscar Tp thereby creating something of a shock.

The Squadron team will benefit from the competition and should do well in the forthcoming matches and competition in the New Year.

FAMILIES

The Squadron wished to congratulate **Capt Toby** and **Serena Browne, LCpl Barry** and **Amanda Plumpton** and **LCpl Stephen** and **Karen Hopwood** on their recent marriages.

We also congratulate **LCpl Mark Rouse** and his wife **Mandy** on the birth of their son **Troy** and **Cpl Phil Howes** and his wife **Wendy** on the birth of their daughter **Emma**.

INS AND OUTS

The squadron warmly welcomes **Maj Mike Tudor, Maj Tony Rose, Capt Ian Gibbs, WO1 Dave Monger, SSgt George West, Cpls Russell Ayre, Patrick Thomas, Kevin McIntosh, Kenneth Gray, LCpls Michael Banting, Graham Shedd, Stuart Armstrong, Steven Farrar, Jonathan Weighill, Dave Lambert, George Beardsley, Sig Darren Miller, Sean Dulson, Stephen Smith** and **Dave Copley**.

We sadly say farewell and good luck to: **Maj Alun Price, WO2 Bernie Docherty, WO2 John Weyland, Sgts Frank Campbell, Bill Evans, Ian Flooks, 'Ozzy' Osborne, Cpls 'Geordie' Teasdale, John Friend,, LCpls Roy Inns, Paul Chesters, Ian Watson, Mick Sibley, Tony Bennett, Dave Bronniman, 'Scouse' Oldfield** and **Hughie McFee**.

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

The Squadron revitalised itself at the beginning of September with a Battle Camp in the fresh sea air of Folkestone. With batteries recharged, it was back to Chelsea to face a two month period of inspections, visits and Ceremonial events.

The Squadron experienced its first ARU on 12 November, which was carried out by the GOC London District, **Maj Gen C. J. Airy CBE**. The General, on his first visit to the Squadron, was very interested to discover in greater detail some of our lesser known roles and activities, and was delighted to meet many of the younger members of the Squadron in the bar at lunchtime. Whilst in the Squadron bar the General presented **Cpl Stan Harvey** with his LS&GC medal, and **Sig 'Simmo' Simpson** and **Pte Simone Rouse** with the best male and female student awards, respectively, on the recent Battle Camp.

Apart from these more serious events, the Squadron has managed to particpate in a number of sporting activities, or have them arranged for us by merciless PTI's!

Cpl Stan Harvey receives his LS & GC from the GOC. Cushion Bearer is Sig (now LCpl) Tony Lynch

Pte Simone Rouse receives her award for the Best Female Student on Battle Camp—(Behind the bar LCpl Miller is now looking rather concerned in case the General asks him for a drink that he doesn't know how to mix!)

FAREWELL TO MRS L. M. CLEARY

After 37 years of loyal service **Mrs Lyn Cleary** retired from the post of Supervisor at the London District telephone exchange. **Mrs Cleary** started her service as a telephonist in October 1950 and was promoted to Supervisor in April 1960. The London District exchange was originally located at Horse Guards and moved to Wellington Barracks in November 1986. The GOC London District, **Maj Gen C. J. Airy CBE** was delighted to have the opportunity to make the presentation from the Headquarters to **Mrs Cleary** whom he had first met a few years ago when he was a young Captain!

Maj Gen Airey makes the farewell presentation to Mrs Lyn Cleary on her retirement

INTER TROOP SUPERTEAM COMPETITION

The September Superteam competition was the second of the series of Inter Troop competitions carefully engineered by our PTI, **Cpl Rachael O'Pray**.

As with previous competitions, this one was obviously designed to thoroughly exhaust the willing and energetic competitors whilst providing maximum entertainment for any onlookers. The six teams participating were as follows:-

Oscar Tp A: **Sgt John Gibson, Sig Tony Lynch, LCpl Sid Siddans** and **Pte Lindsey Ridley**.

Oscar Tp B: **Sgt Bob Dodds, LCpl Mark Rothwell, LCpl Dave Butler** and **Pte Anne-Marie Flynn**.

SHQ/Tels Tp: **Sgt Dean Jackson, Sgt Kev Moir, LCpl Sammy Anderson** and **LCpl Jo Inman**.

Radio Tp A: **Capt Patrick Windsor-Brown, Sig 'Simmo' Simpson, Phil Morris** and **Pte Karen Taylor**.

Radio Tp B: **LCpl Kev Jones, Sig 'Crow' Webster, Sig 'Daz' Curtis** and **Pte Kay Wright**.

Odds: **Cpl 'Brummie' Seaton, LCpl Julia Penny, Sig Sheldon Woodfine** and **Dave Cutler**.

The Superteam competitors having a 'quiet' drink in the bar

Ahead of our valiant competitors lay an afternoon of five gruelling tests, beginning with a 4 × 400m relay race. SHQ/Tels Tp made a strong start to the competition with **LCpl 'Whippet' Inman** running a fine last leg, in spite of a gallant effort to catch up by **Sig Lynch** (Oscar A). The second item on the agenda was the Indoor Obstacle Course, incorporating speed, endurance and balance, the latter which **LCpl 'Do it again' Siddans** will definitely confirm! Again SHQ/Tels Tp won and increased their lead. The next event, and the most demanding, required each team member to do one of the following gym tests for one minute: Sit ups, Squat thrusts, Ski jumps and Step ups. This time Radio Tp proved the stronger with the 'B' team just getting the edge over the 'A' team. Once the competitors had got their breath back they were faced with negotiating a slalom course whilst bouncing a ball and then scoring a goal. Simple! As long as you remember to take the ball with you. Then again you could waste five minutes trying to shoot at the basket, as ably demonstrated by **Sgt 'Harlem Globetrotter' Moir**. Again, Radio Tp B were first.

The competition was now wide open with everything to win or lose on the last event, a 4 × 50m swim. SHQ/tels Tp led from start to finish with **LCpl 'Fish' Anderson** swimming a strong last leg to victory.

The final results were as follows:

1st	SHQ/Tels	25 pts
2nd	Radio B	24 pts
3rd	Radio A	18 pts
4th	Oscar B	16 pts
5th	Oscar A	14 pts
6th	Odds!	8 pts

Before leaving the swimming pool the competitors made a not unexpected gesture of thanks to **Cpl O'Pray** for her hard work and effort in making the afternoon a definite success—she took an 'early bath', but like a good official held on to her clip board and pen (perhaps they offered greater bouyancy than her water wings!)

At the end of an enjoyable afternoon everyone adjourned to the bar where the OC, **Maj Peter Dick-Peter**, presented the prizes to the winning teams.

RADIO TROOP BULLETIN

Since our last transmission, Radio Tp has continued its multifarious activities in London and elsewhere.

In September, all members of the Troop spent a week or more at Folkestone on the Squadron Battle Camp. **Sig 'Simmo' Simpson** proved that reading 'Victor' and 'Battle' comics can prove useful, and somehow bluffed his way so professionally that he was awarded a prize for Best Male Student . . . (Well done, **Simmo**).

In October, in between supporting four different charity events—(including 'The Queen's Shilling' at the Royal Albert Hall), the Troop set up a teleprinter exercise (artfully named 'Ex Sticky Fingers' by **Sgt Mick 'Bulging Wallet' Sheehan**, whose idea the exercise was). Then came Ex New Moon (there was one on 22 October, in case you were wondering . . .). **LCpl Kev Jones** was there, and his exclusive report follows, but suffice to say that the idea was hatched between **Cpl Ian Rushmer** and **Capt Patrick Windsor-Brown**, and yet only the latter actually subjected himself to two trips up Scafell and four nights under canvas . . .

Sig 'Simmo' Simpson receives his 'action man' award from the GOC. In the background are the 2IC, LCpls 'Windy' Miller and 'Kal' Kalmar (who hopes it will be his turn next year!)

EXERCISE NEW MOON

Report by LCpl Kev Jones

Ex New Moon took place in two separate locations: Wasdale Head at the foot of Scafell in the Lake District and on Coombe Gibbet, a feature near Hungerford in Berkshire. The aims of the exercise were to climb Scafell and to communicate from the summit to the Berkshire detachment.

First to Wasdale were **Capt Windsor Brown** and **LCpl Mick Labram** (who both stayed there throughout the exercise), plus **LCpl Fred Kirkpatrick** and **Sig 'Runch' Runchman, 'Crow' Webster** and **Sheldon Woodfine**. Meanwhile, the Berkshire det was arriving at their site. **Sig Simmo Simpson** and **'Grover' Nairn** demonstrated their expertise and worldliness by revealing that they had no waterproofs, torches, flasks or change of clothing, but did have bright orange airbeds and duvets rather than sleeping bags . . .

Cpl Stu Hamilton volunteered to cook the evening meal and entered the cooking tent with the words 'We will have chips or die'. What transpired was that the rest of the group were force-fed cold spuds and gallons of cooking oil. **Stu** even turned out the lights so that we

Scafell half way to the top. Just below the cloud line
Sig Bob Nairn attempting to prove his expertise with the 320 before changing into his outrageous pullover, whilst LCpl Kev Jones slips into a state of sublime meditation, prior to leaving the 5.4m mast behind . . .

At the top of Scafell. The 'K2' team
(L to R) Back: Sig Bob Nairn (spot the pullover!), Cpl Stu Hamilton (ah, so there is life in Oscar Tp!)
(L to R) Front: Sig 'Simmo' Simpson and LCpl Kev Jones

couldn't see what we were eating. Halfway through the week, having spoken to the other group at the top of Scafell, we said farewell to **Sgt Sheehan** and, having unintentionally covered most of the RAC Lombard Rally route, arrived at Wasdale Head.

The following day we climbed Scafell. About half way up we had a break and checked comms before pushing for the summit . . . (Guess who's read 'Everest the Hard Way') . . . 'After 10 minutes **Sig Simpson** asked who was carrying the 5.4m mast . . . After some guilty looks and not a few oaths, a red-faced Lance Corporal ran back down to look for it. Having recovered it and without further disasters we made it to the top and re-established communications.

Once back at Wasdale Head it became obvious that **LCpl Labram** had set his sleeping bag on fire because he was actually seen for the first time that week. Early the next morning we pulled ourselves from the mud, packed up and set off for our home comforts at Chelsea'.

In the last week in October, **Sgt Sheehan** put the junior RTg Signalmen through their paces, in order to assess them for 3-2 upgrading. The week's tuition was largely successful although **Sig 'Crow' Webster** might like to try sending Morse with one of his feet

The calendar for November looked like one 'event' after another. In between visits from the HQ London District Chief of Staff, the GOC himself (the Squadron's ARU) and **Brig Alexander**, the new Comd Comms UKLF, the Troop was out in full for the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph. The proposed State Visit of the

President of Italy brought London District the greatest recorded case of 'On the bus, Off the bus' in recent history . . . As usual, we were on parade at 0430 hrs (no, not a misprint) on the Friday prior to the President's arrival, and went through a full rehearsal for what was to have been our third State Visit of 1987. As we ate our late breakfasts, the news came through—the Italian government coalition (the 42nd since the war) had collapsed; the State Visit was looking doubtful. Confirmation came the following morning. Our two despatch riders, **LCpl Andy Fryer** and **Sig Jason Ballard**, had spent two days hurtling around London delivering invitations to the usual State Banquet at Buckingham Palace, only to have to spend a further day delivering cancellation notices to all invitation recipients . . ho hum.

Not to be deprived of the chance of seeing the Prime Minister plus cabinet, the Troop OC, and **Cpl Rushmer, LCpl Kirkpatrick** and **Sig Nairn** and **Woodfine**, went to Buckingham Palace on 24 November, in order to provide car-calling facilities for all those attending a Diplomatic Reception. All went well and **Fred Kirkpatrick** found that watching 'Spitting Images' was most beneficial, in that it helped him recognise key members of the Government.

RADIO TROOP—HOT GOSSIP

The Honey Monster has escaped from his Sugar Puffs masters and is alive and well in Chelsea Barracks, apparently armed with a pace-stick and an imaginative collection of 'No Smoking' signs. He also likes going to work at 0430 hrs for no particular reason!

Sig 'Simmo' Simpson went four days without a BFFI Bluey, in November. A lovers' tiff, or has **Andrea** exhausted the Falkland Island's supply of stationery?

Sig 'Runch' Runchman has bought an Inner London public transport Season Ticket and a handbook entitled 'London. A Pedestrians Guide'.

Sgt Steve Matthews has been secretly working for the Daily Mirror under the original pseudonym of Marge Proops.

Cpl 'Brummie' Seaton's equipment for First Aid Casualty Simulation includes a 20 litre can of false blood, most of which can be used to drench hapless Troop Commanders (and Birmingham still can't manufacture a set of blues of adquate dimensions for him . . .).

And finally. Those of you who wondered what became of Clyde the Orang-Utan in the film 'Any Which Way You Can' will be pleased to learn that he is now a Lance Corporal, and in October bought his Troop Commander's Peugeot in order to take it apart, piece by piece . . . (Can anyone lend **Andy Fryer** a socket set, or even a copy of the Highway Code . . .?).

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES/CONGRATULATORY

Due to the lack of any available interesting news for the last issue, this section of the notes is significantly longer than usual. Farewell and good luck to: **Sgt Bill** and **Joan Smith** to Edinburgh, **Sgt Andy** and **Angie Tempest** to 30 Sig Regt, **Cpl Paul Wooding**, off to NI to join his wife **Karen, Cpl Kath Benn** to sunny Cyprus, **Cpl Don Fraser** and **LCpl 'Geordie' Craddock** to 'Civvy Street', **LCpl 'Tug'** and **Leslie Wilson** to Soest, **LCpl Dave** and **Tracey Butler** and **LCpl Geoff Croft** to 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Rick Dickson** to Edinburgh, **Pte Sally Reggler** on promotion to 239 Sig Sqn, **Pte Karen Ellams** on promotion to 233 Sig Sqn, **Pte Anne-Marie Flynn** on promotion to Chertsey, **Pte Pam Rees** to Hong Kong, **Ptes Sue Stanford** and **Nicki Thornton** to NI. **Pte Karen Taylor** to Cyprus, **Pte Karen Miller** to Berlin, **Sig Colin Whiteway**, who is probably now rubbing beeswax into a Metropolitan Police truncheon! **Sig Dave 'The Haircut' Cutler** to 1 Div (latest reports inform us that he is intent on forming a botanical group within the Verden branch of the Ovalteenies. By the way, if you ever had difficulty finding a policeman when you need one, ask **Dave** for a couple of tips!).

After losing so many of the 'old and faithful' we welcome with open arms our new members: **Sgt Steve** and **Linda Matthews** from Blandford, **Sgt Colin** and **Jackie Ryder**, and **Sgt Howie** and **Jane Richardson** from 2 Bde, **Cpl 'Geordie' Colquhoun** from 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl 'Mitch' Salmon** from 16 Sig Regt, **Cpl Kerry Gill** from 28 Sig Regt, **LCpl Justin Harries, Sig John Rawnsley** from 8 Sig Regt (who did a rapid disappearing act the same week he arrived to hopefully be selected for the British tobogganing team) **Sig David** and **Maureen Clarkson** from 3 Div, **Pte Jane Kime** from York, who within weeks of arriving gained both a husband and a tape is now **LCpl Pudney**—congratulations! **Sig Tony Lynch** from 30 Sigs, **Pte Mandy Menear** from Edinburgh and **Ptes Deanna Barker, Sarah Howells, Lynette Jones, Sandra Rowley, Julia Sharpe** and **Sarah Thickett**, all fresh from the factory!

Finally congratulations to all those who have left us on promotion and to **Cpl Stu Hamilton, LCpls Chris Lyons** and **Tony Lynch** on their recent promotions.

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

The latter part of September saw our **2IC Capt Bill Olive** gather around him a band of steely eyed professionals whose remit was to go on ahead and prepare Radio Sonde Camp in Cyprus for the Red Hand Gang to sample the rigours of Ex Lion Sun. So with his entourage of mechanic, cook, pay, transport and advisors too he packed his sun tan cream and flip flops and went forth boldly.

The remainder of the Squadron with attached Army and RAF from Tactical Communications Wing, less our Commanders Cup Team (who came second equal in the event) flew out from our home base at Brize Norton at the beginning of October to be followed later by the Commanders Cup Team all heading for Cyprus.

The arrival in Cyprus brought with it the first little suprise; we were acting as emergency re-inforcements to allow the HQ in Cyprus to test their procedures. This all went very smoothly until the time came to depart for Radio Sonde when we had to supply the manpower to push the bus to get it started.

Once into Radio Sonde there was the normal settling in and numerous lectures on the dangers and delights of the island and then into the 2ICs Master Plan to keep everyone busy.

The Squadron basically split into three platoons and an administrative cadre with four activities worked on for four days at a time with a changeover day between each activity. Ranges were controlled by **SSgt Larry Little** and **SSgt Phil Coyle** (SASC) and assisted by **Sgt Tony Freeman** and **Sgt John Webb** our REME expert. All credit must go to them for a wide and varied shoot which included firing SLR, SMG, Pistol and LMG and time on the CQB and field firing ranges. On completion **SSgt Phil Coyle**'s only comment was that we were different.

The Tactics team was co-ordinated by **Sgt Daz Giles** our 'pay' Sergeant ably assisted by two Junior NCOs and two Privates from the 1st Bn The Royal Hampshire Regt from Tidworth who took the Platoons in succession through hell to prepare them for the final exercise. You can imagine the joyful expression on **Cpl Cass Cassin's** and **Cpl Edkins** (R Hamps) faces when told by the OC, **Maj Rob Symonds** that he wanted the Platoons worked hard and long at all levels. Diving for cover amongst the hard rocks in Cyprus can certainly bring tears to a glass eye. The phrase 'Fibua is fun' still produces glazed looks from some.

Adventurous training for some reason proved very popular with **Sgt 'Skippy' Geelan** our new MT Sergeant posing on his windsurfer telling one and all how easy it was. (It is on the static trainer, not so in the water). **Cpl Pope** on loan from 30 Sig Regt persuaded even the meekest to have a go at canoeing whilst **Sgt Terry Frankel** was looking for a recipe to stop his groups from developing disco legs whilst abseiling from a mere 60ft piece of rock. Dingy sailing made up the fourth adventurous activity ably managed by **WO2 (YofS) 'Scotty' Reynolds** and **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Atkinson**. The final four day activities consisted of visits to places of 'cultural' interest with a few lucky people managing a trip to Israel.

Running parallel to these deep joy sessions was the volleyball league which was hotly contested most afternoons; however it was a foregone conclusion that the 2IC's team would win for two reasons. One, it was his ball and two, no team was allowed off the court until they either were beaten or admitted defeat (it's not funny playing by the light of a miner's lamp).

So to the final exercise and rumours of impending doom. The changeover days had been put to good use training with 10 Port Sqn on beach landings the RAF on emplaning drills and the Army Dog Section had given a display of a GSD (Alasatian to novices) training to eat **Sig Cox** who had volunteered so that he could become a fully fledged Leeds United supporter. The 2IC and the SSM had been overheard discussing 'the Fusiliers (resident Inf Bn), Scorpion Light Tanks, and dogs' so the pundits thought it was all 'sussed'. The exercise turned out to be a very enjoyable experience for most starting with a first light beach landing at Melanda Beach, a short tab of 6kms to clear any enemy from the area followed by a heli-lift into Evdimou training area. All went well until a thunderstorm precipitated a hasty retreat by the Wessex and forced into use that well known Bedford multi fuel helicopter. That evening various patrolling activities took place and at first light the platoons moved out to move Eastwards through nominated water replenishment points. Needless to say each platoon had an incident of some description to keep them on their toes before reaching the comparitive safety of their platoon hides for the evening. The hours of darkness were well used to recce Paramali Village where the reasons for everyones aching feet were apparently celebrating the fact that the British couldn't find them. First light was

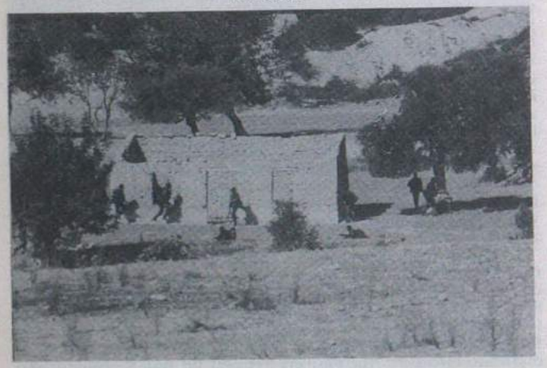
to prove them wrong and all the hard work on FIBUA, put in by the tactics team, paid off handsomely with spirit and aggression normally reserved for the Spotlight Club back in Brize. Recovery to Radio Sonde was completed before lunch with the remainder of the day spent cleaning up equipment and tired bodies. To finish off an inter platoon sports day was held down at the Garrison Sports Area (Happy Valley) where the only two real casualties of the exercise occurred with **LCpl Elliott** breaking his leg at football and **Cpl Pope** tearing ligaments in his knee at Rugby. Throughout the exercise our Medics, **LCpl Stewart RAMC** and **SAC Conaghan** provided 'caring medical cover' which only ever required one visit. Following on from the sports a Squadron Smoker was held in the camp with entertainment provided by platoon skits which amused everyone including the objects of the skits. There then followed the final frantic days of packing, shopping and cleaning and all too soon we were back on a VC10 heading for Brize Norton.

MIW (Mention in *The Wire*) is awarded to: The Yeoman for getting more sleep in two weeks than everyone else did in four. The 2IC for getting more out of the Choggy than any three Warrant Officers. **Sig Cox** for looking better dressed in a dog protection suit than he ever does at Brize Norton.

We were no sooner back at Brize Norton than elements deployed by sea and road to the West Coast of Scotland in support of Ex Purple Warrior which took us to the end of November.

As these notes go to press Bravo/SHQ Tps are in Denmark and Alpha/SHQ Tp elements are in Scotland on pre Norway Training. The MAOTs (D Tp); they are Maoting, of course, all over the world.

LCpl Ostashut, Sig Edwards and LCpl Goodlife leave the helicopter



Paramali Village

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

We would like to say farewell to: **Capt David Powell** to Blandford, **Sgt Nigel Green** and family to Verden, and **LCpl White** and **Shirley** to Berlin. Hello to **Capt Ian Bucklow** from 7 Sig Regt, **2Lt Graham Inglis** from Blandford, **Sgts 'Skippy' Geelan** and family from 28 Sig Regt, **Steve Inglis** and family from 36 Engr Regt, **Cpl Parkes, LCpls Oneill** and **Humm**.

Congratulations to: **SSgt** and **Mrs Barry Martin-Pitt** on the birth of a baby son, **Cpl** and **Mrs Billy Brothwood** on the birth of a baby daughter, **Sig** and **Mrs Geordie Rees** on the birth of a baby daughter and **Cpl** and **Mrs Steve Harrison** on the birth of a baby daughter.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Bulford Camp

The Squadron has been busy with an FTX in Denmark, The Kiwi Trophy Competition, a Squadron Battlecamp and is now preparing for winter training in Norway in the new year.

KIWI TROPHY

Avid readers of our news will know of the gruelling 20km biathlon held in Bulford every summer. Every fit member of the Squadron competes with a 35lb Bergen and personal weapon for the coverted Kiwi Trophy. This year's competition in July saw a fine effort by most of the Squadron on a very hot day. **Brig J. O. C. Alexander,** Comd Comms UKLF was present and presented the prizes. The overall winner with the fastest time and a very good shoot was **Sgt Pete Gower.**

Sgt Pete Gower is presented the Kiwi Trophy by Brig Alexander

LS&GC PRESENTATIONS

The Kiwi Trophy Competition was followed by a lunch in the WOs and Sergeants' mess, where Comd Comms presented LS&GC medals to **WO2 (YofS) Harry Elkan, SSgt (ORSQMS) Paul Duffy** and **Sgt John Munro ACC**.

Brig Alexander presents Sgt John Munro ACC with his LS&GC in the WOs and Sergeants' Mess

NATO CHALLENGE CUP

Report by Lt (now Mr) Nigel Godbolt

Once again the Squadron entered a team in the NATO Challenge Cup biathlon competition this time held in Denmark.

Following the success of winning the competition in Turkey in temperatures of 35C+ and 6,00ft up, the idea of entering the event in Denmark seemed relatively appealing. However, there were different Infantry Battalions competing in this one, including German Paras and Canadian Rangers.

With minimal training time but some promising shooting and zeroing figures, we entered a team of 40. From this list, the organisers trimmed off 14 names and gave us our final team list 24 hours before the event.

The competition started 500m from a very unusual assault course, which the team completed in 11 mins with no penalties, we then continued immediately on the 15km run. Thankfully, it was relatively flat, enabling a good pace to be set and maintained. The team finished in 1 hr 18 mins, with everyone having given of their best. Top marks must go to **LCpl Charlie Challinor** for his facial contortions as he crossed the finish line. From here it was straight to the range which was controlled by an Italian section. Consistent shooting gave us a good score and high hopes of a favourable result.

At the prize giving the news was even better than we could have hoped for. Not only had we won the overall competition by a healthy margin but also the cup for the best team shoot. An excellent result by a minor unit not only beating all major units but all infantry units too. We are looking forward to defending our title in 1988 on skis in North Norway.

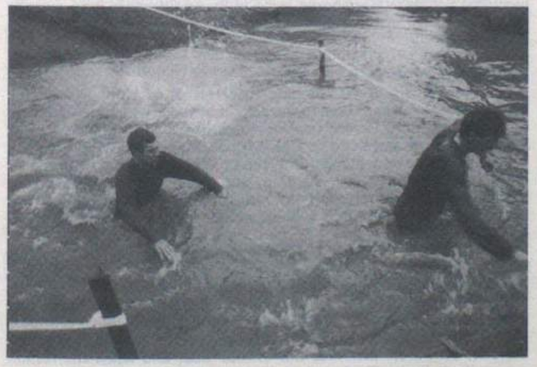
BATTLE CAMP 1987

The one great advantage of choosing October for Annual Battle Camp, is that training areas are not a problem, and the UK choice is somewhat phenomenal. However **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Shelley** ignored all pleas and still earmarked Dartmoor despite much opposition. High on the objectors list of alternatives was Newquay in Cornwall but the SSM would have none of it.

Renney Lentney is little known, but it is a camp with well appointed accommodation in the Plymouth/Wembury Bay area. Normally used as an adventure Trg Base this is where the Squadron made its home for the duration. The personnel were split into three platoons and on a daily basis rotated between NBC/first aid, ranges and Infantry skills and quickly acquainted themselves once more with all the basics required to insert them into the field for the final exercise.

The inter-troop Assault Course Trophy was decided on a very wet and windy HMS *Raleigh* course. The most difficult part was trying to look fit and fresh whilst running past the WRNS quarters. The event itself was extremely close, but with the least penalty points Support Tp ran out the eventual winners.

The whole week's 'dry' training culminated in Ex Fiesta Frolic (those readers who know Union Street will realise the irony of the name), with the Squadron in their platoons, covering large tracts of the training areas. Three successful dawn attacks were put in, although one 'Rifleman' complained that he couldn't locate the enemy's position after coming under effective fire, because of the sun in his eyes! The prize for the best overall platoon was convincingly won by 3 Platoon led by **Sgt Simon Strapp**, although many thought the DS were going to win for their eleaborate use of filofax during the inter Troop Quiz night.



'Who's idea of a joke was this?. . ' WO2 (YofS) Harry Elkan on the assault course

ANNUAL SQUADRON GOLF MEET

Just before any members of the 'Wire Avid Readers Club' lodge an objection and point out that this competition has already been held, and that **Sig 'Seve' Evans** walked away with all honours, suffice to say that after his discharge and under rule 14/A-3 (held by the Golf Officer), **Sig Evans** did not hold the title for longer than the pre-determined minimum period. So the Golf Officer, **SSM Gordon Shelley**, had no alternative but to reconvene the event, post Denmark.

The competition was fought for with each competitor having at his disposal only two clubs, a putter and one other of his choice. The weather conditions at RAF Upavon were somewhat windy but never in danger of dampening anyone's enthusiasm.

There is a wealth of junior talent in here at present, and an enjoyable day out brought these results:

Results: Overall winner—**Cpl Nobby Nevil** 30 pts
Second Equal— **WO2 (SSM) Shelly** 23 pts
SSgt (YofS) Crosby 23 pts
Longest drive—**LCpl 'Chippy' Lang** 184 yds (6 Iron)
Closest drive to the hole—**WO2 (SSM) Gordon Shelley** (18th hole par 3).

FAREWELL

There have been many comings and goings as the Squadron prepares to begin training for Norway. To all new arrivals a hearty welcome and to those who have been posted good luck in your new units. **Sgt Alec Sampson** leaves us on promotion. He and **Sandra** move to 239 Sig Sqn. **SSgt Dave Beattie** and wife **Jan** leave us on posting to the TA in Bristol, rumour has it he is still seen hanging around the SQMS store for exchanges of Arctic smocks. **2Lt Phil Baker** arrived and left in the short space of a few months. He did manage to take part in the NATO Challenge Cup and actually appeared on the start line in the correct form of dress—we believe this was unintentional! And finally a sad farewell to **Lt Nigel Godbolt** and his wife **Trish**. They leave us to take up his new job in civvi street. We wish you all the best and good luck.

Cpl Terry Dowse appeals to heaven for assistance on the 'steps' of the Assault Course in the NATO Challenge Cup!

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

APHRODITES AMBLE

All personnel passing through the Squadron, especially roulement, will have good and bad memories of their time in Cyprus, and the second most popular topic (Ayia Napa being first) is Aphrodites Amble which bi-annual Squadron exercise involving all the Squadron and presently has the format of:-

Day 1 Leadership, Military skills
Day 2 Endurance marching, practical map reading
Day 3 Beach activities, R&R

or at least that is how the DS see it, although to be fair once the 'boys' have been separated from their beer, girlfriends, sick beds, and operational commitments and forced out of the confines of the UNPA they seem to enjoy it. As with most successful events there is not enough room for all the quips, comments and photographs although some things must be mentioned.

The SSM failed to do himself in on this one.

Cpl 'Trucky' Garner has Dutch ancestors.

Cpl Bray has discovered that there is a shortage of home brew on the Troodos mountains.

Cpl Freegard has been convinced that orienteering is easier when you read the clues.

SSgt Brian Lauder now knows that if it takes him 12 hours for a days march, it takes the 'boys' only six.

SSgt (SQMS) Barry Thorp has proof that the rats served in the local taverna are absolutely fresh.

The 2IC—**Capt Charlie Manning** does eat his meat raw.

Berthing a Gemini on your own can prove difficult—ask **Sgt Dave Harthshorne**.

351 aerials are not soldierproof—ask any one.

Now on to the finer details—Day 1 was planned by the 2IC **Capt Charlie Manning** and took place on Dhekelia Ranges consisting of the following stands:-

First Aid manned by **LCpl Forester** and **Pte Dobbs;**
Map Reading manned by **Sgt Steve Dobson;**
NBC manned by **Sgt Graeme Hossell;**
Comms Skills manned by **WO1 (YofS) Waller** and **Sgt Dave Hartshorne**.
Weapons Skills (mornings only) manned by **SSgt 'I've finished my bit can I go home now?' Brian Lauder** and **Sgt Serge Archambault;** and
Leadership Course manned by **SSgt Edwards** and **Sgt Derek Bright**.

Notable stars were **Cpl Bray** who decided to solve the obstacles on the leadership course by attempting to demolish them, **LCpl Banville** who orientates the compass to the ground.

Five Sections took part in both phases and Day 1 finished with all sections embussing for the night location, in the foothills to the south of Mount Olympus. Unfortunately for **LCpl 'Taff' Thomas**'s section he decided to send the map for Day 2 to the Day 3 location! However, a kindly DS supplies another map in exchange for a 30 minute penalty.

Day 2 confirmed two things:

One that there is a world of difference (well 5km at least) between the theory and practice of Map Reading and two that maps of Cyprus do bear a passing resemblance to what is actually on the ground.

All teams finished with very respectable times, with the fastest arriving at the Evdimou Beach location before lunch, with some members still having enough energy left to sprint away from Jack the Jabber alias **Pte Dobbs**, and Mad Medic, who was administering large doses of iodine and Friars Balsam mix throughout the afternoon and after seeing **Sig Hewish** treated, (see photo opposite) most of the blisters miraculously self healed and the 'Sick Queue' and the light faded away together.

Night Two was spent on a carbohydrate replenishment session after which the 2IC was found in the SSM's tent with this fingers in his mouth mumbling about orientation error in the dark, however the next morning found the SSM mumbling about Ration error and missing sausages and so after a lighter breakfast than normal, Day 3 began.

SSM to assembled crows:

'Okay, who can windsurf?'—'Silence'
'Okay, who can stand up on a windsurfer?'—'Silence'
'Okay, who can stand up?'—'A few Keo type groans'
'Okay, all those who can't windsurf fall in for orienteering'

SSM after recovering from being trampled in the rush to sailboards, then explains that sailboards have a one man crew and hands all surplus bods over to **WO2 (FofS) Downie** in the hope that the orienteering course is at least 30km long with the final checkpoint at least 2km out to sea. **Cpl 'Meach' Meachin** provided sea canoeing instruction with **Cpl 'Trucky' Garner** running trips around the bay in the Gemini.

Meantime the Foreman went to check on the problem with the orienteering as after an hour no one had passed Check Point 2, 10 minutes later the SQMS went to check on the Foreman, followed at regular intervals by the majority of the DS.

After heated discussion it was later decided that the Foreman was to blame for setting the checkpoint next to the topless ladies and a more serious offence, for not informing the DS of the outstanding natural features when he set out the checkpoints. Needless to say, all runners arrived at the final checkpoint hot, and late.

All good things come to an end and soon everyone was on transport heading home, with the SSM breaking down (again) on Phase 1 and spending five hours on the hard shoulder, and the coach having electrical failure on Phase 2 and in fact on reaching Jubilee Camp had to have the electric doors manually operated to let the passengers out.

COMMCEN TROOP

Since the last edition of *The Wire*, Commcen Tp has had a settling down period after the hustle and bustle of our refurbishment during the summer months.

Our communications tasks have not altered greatly apart from the demise of comms to Sector 5 (Swedish). Yes, unfortunately the 'lovely female Swedish operators' have left the Island, along with the withdrawal of the Swedish Contingent.

The weather has finally changed, Gas Heaters have been issued and the Woolly Pullies are on. Unfortunately after the heat of the summer the rain has come and with it inevitably the grass and weeds have started growing again. (Keep at it lads).

The two main events that have taken place since the last entry are 'Aphrodites Amble' and the Squadron Orienteering Competition.

APHRODITES AMBLE

To allow all members of the Squadron to participate, the exercise was held in two phases. We are happy to report that the team comprising **Cpl Steve Everett, LCpl 'Easy wind up' Mick Ginty, Sig Simon Jones, Andy Major** and **Dan Burdus** quite easily won Phase 1.

SQUADRON ORIENTEERING COMPETITION

This was held on one of our normal 0600 hrs PT lessons. A course was set by **WO2 (FofS) Downie** and most of the Troop was able to take part, including the **YofS Bob Waller**. Overall the Troop did well, including **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** and **Cpl Bryan Croxford** who came in fourth and fifth in the Squadron and first and second in the Troop respectively.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Due to 30 Sig Regt commitments this is a slow period for handovers/takeovers. Much to the delight of those who have had their tour extended until December. We would like to say goodbye to **Cpl Bryan Croxford** and hello to **Cpl 'Meach' Meachin.**

Finally, we have a change of Yeoman. We would like to welcome **WO2 Nick Hammett** into the fold, and say goodbye to **WO1 Bob Waller, Sue** and family. All the best in Northern Ireland and the future, and remember **Bob** a 'centimetre' is not an insect with 100 legs!

RADIO TROOP

Radio Tp has kept busy during the last two months. The highlight for October was Troops participation in Ex Aphrodites Amble. **Lt Kevin Furguson**, the Troop OC had high hopes that Radio Tp would, once again, be victorious in the three-day military skills orientated exercise. However, luck was not on our side, and when the results were tallied, Radio Tp found itself in third place.

CSE SHOW

Radio Tp's exit from the limelight was short lived. The CSE show had been booked to perform for the UN. The Troop, under the direction of the **Troop SSgt Brian Lauder**, was tasked to prepare the venue. After much sweat (and not a little blood) the show went ahead as planned. It proved to be excellent and was enjoyed by all. After the show, a group from the Troop, headed by **SSgt Brian Lauder** (perks of the job) met with the star of the show, **Faith Brown**. The boys were suitably impressed when she thanked **Staffy** and his crew for the help in ensuring the show's success. After a short photography session, the crew donned their sunglasses and slipped out a side exit to a chaffeur driven land rover that took them to a local night club for an after-show party.

GOODBYES AND HELLOS

The Troop said goodbye to some of its members, in suitable style namely **Cpls Tony Scoins, Craig Winsor, Sig Adam Furniss** and **Wade Patterson**. We wish them all the best for the future and welcome in their place **Cpls John Freegard, John Kalincuk** and **Sig Carl Falconer** and **Mark Kekkoen.**

TECH AND LINE TROOP—ORIENTEERING

The orienteering season started on Tuesday 1 October with the Squadron's own competition, organised and set by the FofS and SSM, assisted by the SQMS. A 7km course was laid around the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA), designed to test stamina and map reading skills. The whole Squadron entered the competition, with the 2IC being first starter at 0530 hrs. The race was over by 0715 hrs, and at 0730 hrs a suitably recovered and refreshed Squadron OC presented the medals to:-

1st **LCpl Dave Giles** (Tech and Line Tp) (Roulement from 262 Sig Sqn)
2nd **Sgt Graeme Hossell** (Tech and Line Tp)
3rd **Sgt Steve Dobson** (Tech and Line Tp)

All three medal winners, and fourth placed **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** (Commcen Tp) joined the FofS and the SSM in the Squadron team for the Regimental Competition on Wednesday 7 October. It was another hot day, on a fast course around the UNPA. The FofS had a fine run, winning the individual Gold by a clear two minutes from OC REME Workshops. **Sgt Graeme Hossell** stormed in to take the Bronze and push the favourites (and then current champions) UN Flight AAC out of the medal positions. **Sgt Steve Dobson** and **LCpl Dave Giles** ran in sixth and seventh to clinch the Team Prize for the Squadron.

Overall positions were:-

1st **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie**
3rd **Sgt Graeme Hossell**
6th **Sgt Steve Dobson**
7th **LCpl Dave Giles**
16th **Sgt Dave Hartshorne**
18th **WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton**

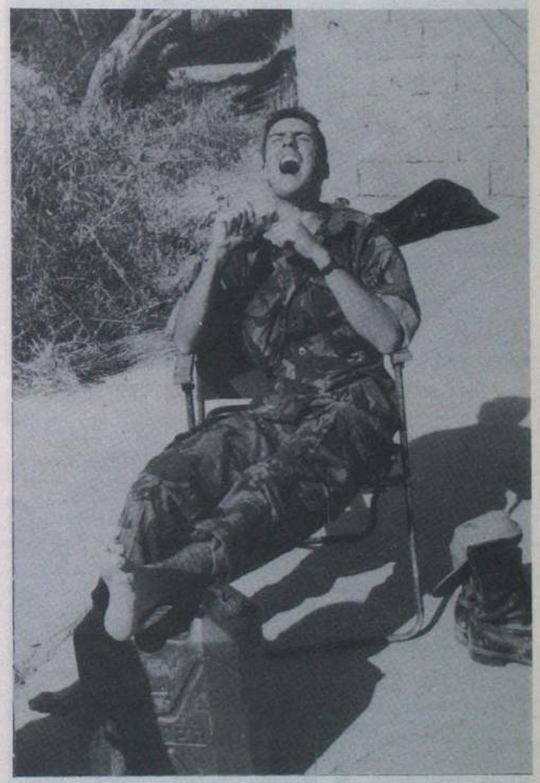
Out of a field of 36 competitors, these results are a very encouraging start to the sesson, and the Squadron hopes to continue to do well in the Combined Services (Cyprus) Orienteering League.

DANCON MARCH

The Dancon March is a 50km March over two days climbing up through the Troodos mountains.

The team for this march was: **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie** (3rd time), **Mrs Angela Downie** (1st time), **Miss Sarah Downie** (1st time), **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** (1st time), **Sgt Derek Bright** (Last time).

Day one started with breakfast in the cookhouse at 0500 hrs with everyone still smiling and looking forward to the day. At the start point all the men had their kit weighed to ensure that they were carrying the minimum weight of 10kgs. As the start time came closer the crowd became worried as a fully armed Danish soldier appeared at the back to stop anyone escaping. A gunshot, and a bugler sounded the start, and we were off. We soon split into two groups with **Sgts Derk Bright** and **Dave Hartshorne** going off ahead. It soon became apparent that the Danish were using a new distance method, known as Flexi-K's, with their signs saying 10ks and the road signs saying 13 ks. The hardest climb of the course was between checkpoints two and three rising about 1,500ft in 5km exposed to the Cyrpus Sun. All the team completed the first day well under the time limit of seven hours, and proved their enjoyment by all falling asleep on the coach back to Nicosia. Day two started much the same as day one, with breakfast at 0500 followed by the drive to the start. **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** was unable to start day two as he had the flu. Spirits were still high and after an initial downhill stage the second day's marching started to climb up again. With most of the climb rising steadily through a picturesque valley. The view of the central plain from the top almost made the climb seem worthwhile. The last 5km of day two was downhill, with every Dane standing at the roadside saying 'just around the corner', but not saying which corner. At the finish the Commander of Dancon shook everyones hand and presented us all with our medals, numbers and certificates, not forgetting the Free Beer Chit.



259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

October and November saw the Squadron as busy as ever with a two weeks' Battle Camp at Akamas shared with 262 Sig Sqn, the formal visit as part of our ARU Inspection and the Annual Venus Rock Exercise.

ARU VISIT

6 November saw the visit to the Squadron of CLFC **Brig A. D. Myrtle**.

The Commander managed to visit most elements of the Squadron, but a heavy snowfall on the mountains prevented the flying programme from taking place and so he was unable to visit our Troop on Troodos. The visit ended with a buffet and drinks in the Jimmy Club where **Brig Myrtle** presented the LS&GC to **Sgt Sam Coster**.

CLFC presents his LS&GC medal to Sgt 'Sam' Coster

CLFC talks to LCpl Cascarino at Afd Tp, OC—Maj McConnell and OC Afd Tp Capt Budworth (*hidden*) look on

BATTLE CAMP
DS AND ATTACHED PERSONNEL

259 SIG SQN	**262 SIG SQN**
Capt Pete Cain—Ex Controller	**Sgt Pete Fitzmorris**
Lt Nick Coldrey—Coy Comd	**Sgt Bob Lee**
SSgt Stu Mullen—SQMS	**Sgt Phil Tate**
SSgt Les Allen	**Sgt Bob Orchard**
SSgt Roy Habergham	
Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick	
Sgt Steve Owen	
Sig Paul Travis	
LCpl Lee Roy—ACC	**Cpl Slyper RAMC**
LCpl Steve Etherington—ACC	

With the Royal Visit ended, the frightful thought of battle camp only a few weeks away was enough to send any non-combatant technician hiding amongst his many equipments or readily adopting the new famed battle camp limp. Even a few Tele Mechs were seen to be mopping brows thanking heaven for the sympathetic ear of the MO and waving their F Med 566 with not even as much as a whiff of a DPM smock.

Much preparation and planning was required to ensure that this year's battle camp went smoothly especially as this was to be a joint venture with our sister Squadron in Cyprus—262.

So, with only a fortnight to go the awe-inspiring forward recce team of Sqn 2IC, **Capt Pete Cain, Lt Nick Coldrey, SSgt Roy 'Stumpy' Habergham, SSgt Les (Trg SNCO, RTg SSgt, SSM) Allen** set forth and carried out the recce of the Akamas training area; a very barren dry inhospitable land which does not lend itself to the weak and weary. Maybe the Tropo Course came at the right time for 262 Sig Sqn radio relay techs. With recce compete plans written and vehicles loaded the DS left Episkopi to set up camp for a two week stay.

After a long drive during which we survived the rigours of the 30k, track from Ayios Yeorgios to Akamas, the camp was set under the supervision of **SQMS Stu Mullen**. Preparations were made and discussed over a few cans of yellow frothing liquid in preparation for the arrival of the training troops on the Monday. This included the setting up of various stands and field firing ranges. With camp ready by Saturday lunch the DS kept themselves occupied with many pastimes such as thinking about marriage, and what waffle to tell PB11, eating too much, thanks to our superb cooks **LCpl Steve Etherington** and **LCpl Lee Roy ACC.** Keeping the generators going was a full time task and managed ably by **Sgt Steve Owen** and **Sig Paul Travis.** Two of the DS **Sgt Pete Fitzmorris** and **Sgt Bob Lee** even managed to originate the Akamas afternoon Hash. Rumour has it they couldn't hack early morning PT.

The exercise certainly did test the ability of our soldiers taking on such tasks as section, platoon and company attacks, cordon and search, patrolling and ambushes all scrupulously planned by **Lt Nick Coldrey** whilst contemplating his forthcoming marriage—poor lad!

The first week went well starting with early morning PT and moving on to training after a hearty breakfast and cold showers. The first two days consisted of mandatory training such as NBC, First Aid, Map Reading and Tactics. The third day was field firing although a halt was brought to this by a forest fire some distance from the range and the local fire brigade needed assistance to deal with the blaze.

SSgt (SQMS) Stu Mullen serves the stew—LCpl David, Sig Howard, Sig Marriot and Cpl Harrison look on expectantly while Cpl Brearley has doubts about it

The DS Staff *From L to R:* Sgt Fitzpatrick, Lt Coldrey, Sgt Fitzmorris, Capt Cain, SSgt Allen, SSgt Habergham, Sgt Tate, SSgt Mullen, Sgt Owen, Sgt Lee, Sgt James and Cpl Slyper RAMC

Apart from groin strains, blisters and the Exercise Controllers fight with the fridge wagon steps the remainder of the week went without hitch.

Week two saw the arrival of two more platoons on the Akamas penninsula and under the watchful eyes of the platoon DS **Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick** and **Sgt Pete 'No webbing and a walking stick' Fitzmorris** to do battle with the Akamas rebels. Many a firefight was won and lost and many a mile marched with both platoons maintaining high spirits throughout the week. Smiles from **LCpl 'Bully' Bullivant** and **LCpl Cas Cascarino** turned to giggles when the cream cake ration was broken out and issued prior to a fighting patrol maybe **LCpl Cascarino** had more on his face than in his mouth.

The high point of the exercise was the company attack on the Akamas rebel stronghold. A well planned and executed attack commanded by **Sgt Ricky Rickwood** sent the rebels running with two section taking the enemy colours (an old pair of orange underpants).

The week finished with a barbecue and drinks which were downed as hard as battles were fought, and when will the training NCO pass his Toets!

Both Squadrons should be congratulated for their exceptional efforts and high spirits throughout the camp.

EPISKOPI TROOP
EXERCISE SEA ADVENTURE

Episkopi Tp managed to find time, despite cries of ARU and Battle Camp, to organise a small Adventure Training Exercise aboard Parang, the Corps Yacht, based here in Cyprus. A fairly standard routine was employed by the Troop OC in the organisational role. Having claimed the glory for the initiation of the idea, he disappeared off on Battle Camp and then 'Something important came up' and he just had to go on leave. So, **SSgt 'Dougie' Ward** was left to do all the work.

Anyway, everything went well and nine members of the Squadron spent some days practising detailed nautical manoeuvres, such as 'splicing the mainbrace'. Incidentally, an art in which I understand they became very proficient. They returned, smelling of fish, the sea and just a hint of beer with stories of how **Cpl 'Steve' Kemble** could steer the boat, merely by the influence of his weight on either port or starboard gunnel and how they failed three times to throw **LCpl 'Bleep' Reith** overboard. The concluding decision was that they must all jolly well do it again next year.

(PS—Congratulations to the Troop OC **Lt 'Knightrider' Coldrey** on sneaking off to get married).

AIRFIELD TROOP

The past month for Airfield Tp has been a time for greetings and farewells to many stalwart members of the Troop.

New arrivals to the Troop have been **Sgt Tim Nicholas** and his wife **Maria**, we also have an inter-troop posting from Mountain Tp **LCpl Danny Boland** and wife.

Leaving the troop we have **Sig Jake 'I'm the best tele mech in the troop' Jacobs** and his wife **Carmell**. **Jake** is posted to 21 Sig Regt where he expects to have a good number as a draughtsman. Also leaving the troop we have **Cpl Pete Cunningham** and his wife **Wendy**. His epic war stories will be greatly missed.

Congratulations are in order for **Sig 'Dicky' Dickerson** and wife **Fiona** on the birth of their son **Kyle.**

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Nigel Cory**
TOT	**Capt Colin Bachelor**
AO	**Lt Jan McKee**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Edgecombe**

Battle Camp, Cyprus Walkabout, Dhekelia Dash but to name a few, have kept us all fit and on our toes during the past few weeks.

Commander Land Forces Cyprus after presenting the LS & GC Medal to Sgt Fitzmaurice in the presence of his wife Mandy and their children Leanne and Shaun

CYPRUS WALKABOUT

For the uninitiated the Cyprus Walkabout sounds like a good idea, but in reality conceals a military marathon mountain climb. 6,000ft up . . . and 6,000ft down again in under the allocated 24 hours.

Day 1 saw the A and B teams up before the birds at 0330 hrs and en route by 0500 hrs. They started running, then walked and finally the A Team crawled home in just over 10 hours. A brave attempt by the B Team, but unfortunately only two members made the mountain as the third was unable to continue, so the whole team had to withdraw. Well done to **Cpl Trev 'Ouch, me cartilage!' Cotter, Cpl John 'Ouch, me blisters!' Morgan** and **Cpl Nick 'Ouch, me ankle!' Shaw**. Better luck next year.

Day 2 dawned and eventually having prised the bed off **Sig Mark 'How much further to the next check point' Crook**, they were off and hobbling. After three checkpoints and on the home run **Sig Crook** was forced to retire. Well done anyway **Mark**. Two more checkpoints and several encouragements from the 3 RTR team, **WO2 (SSM) Dave Thomas** and **LCpl Mel McCorry** came romping home in a time of 21 hours. Congrats to you both!

DHEKELIA DASH

Occasionally the Troops in Cyprus manage to fit in sport round about their working calendar (or is it the other way round?), but the Dhekelia Dash, a 15 mile relay, is a must. The day started with an upset about the team composition of 1 Sqn 9 Sig Regt for the residents

trophy, but after a quick reorganisation they went on to win. The Squadron produced a team of the old and bold exceeding a total age of 400 years and finishing a very respectable fourth. Just wait till next year, 1 Sqn. Well done to the team: **WO2 Dave Thomas, SSgts Roy Snape, Bill Jackson, Sgts Shaun Prior, Martin Davis, Pete Lowe, Cpls Nick Shaw, John Morgan, Trev Cotter, Mick Keeble, LCpls Mel McCorry, Colin Leonard, Bob Mackie, Sig Al Ritchie** and **Sig 'Mousy' Sweeney**. Thanks from the SSM to OC 1 Sqn 9 Sig Regt for his letter of congrats, Nice touch.

259/262 SIG SQN COMBINED BATTLE CAMP

At the crack of dawn on a warm October morning 12 members of the Squadron set out on the long trek to Epi for the first week of Battle Camp. A few lectures on IS and EODs, and the exercise had commenced with a bang! So far so good, but the fun didn't really start until the end of a pleasant four hour trip to Akamas.

For those of you who do not know Akamas, it is best thought of as a place where you come to terms with Dust!—Oh—and **SSgt Fullwood**. He materialised from thin air with threats of extra PT and wearing a Jimmy on his WRAC beret. You find some strange people on Akamas!

A welcome break in training came when all and sundry were urgently summoned to a bundu fire. Mutters of 'It'll last for days. No exercise phase!' could be heard from all sides, but it turned out to be no more than a bonfire giving both Squadrons an excellent opportunity to practise passing buckets of water.

At last the exercise phase was under way. A fleeting visit by the OC **Maj Nigel Cory** touting his camera gave **Sig Wilson** a prime opportunity to 'attack him' as he lay snapping away happily in a bush, but reason overcame desire and the chance was missed. Next time, sir!

The final night barbecue gave everyone time to tell war stories and hassle the DS, while Carlsberg and local wine flowed into the early hours until the last man, **Sig Jimmy Watson,** was kicked out by the DS. The end of a camp for some, but for all DS another week of fun was still to come!

LCpl Bob MacKie takes a break during Battle Camp, and look, he's still smiling!

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATS

Lots of movement in 262 Sqn just now. Welcomes go to **SSgt (SQMS) Dave** and **Linda Edgecombe, Sgt Tony** and **Sue Mann, Sgt Tim** and **Carol Wynn, Cpl Lee** and **Deborah Thompson, Cpl Gail Russell, Sig Steve** and **Carole Appleton, Sig Neil** and **Sharon Frank** and **Sig Nicholls** and **Sweeney.**

Goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Mick** and **Ute Dighton, Martin** and **Diane Davies, Steve** and **Leslie Slade, Cpl Mick** and **Sue Keeble, John** and **Tina Paterson, Anne Styles** off to join husband **Derek, LCpl Mick Linkins** and **Sig Mark Crook.**

And finally . . congratulations on another Squadron engagement, that of **Cpl Gary Hewings** to **Pte Lynne Corns**, and to **Sgt Pete Fitzmaurice** on receipt of his LS&GC medal.

— News from Troops —

NATO FSS (Shetland)

Report by Sgt Bob Bagshaw RAPC

Mid-day on 21 November 1987 saw the first dart of many take flight at the start of a 24 hour Darts Marathon held in the Maybury Club to raise funds for the local RNLI. The idea for the marathon was hatched one dark and stormy night by **Mr Tony Bracken** (ex Cpl), **Sgt Bob Bagshaw RAPC** and **Cpl John Davidson**. Full of enthusiasm we set about organising a team of 10 and were not short of volunteers. Neither were we short of volunteers to help out with the scoring with **Janet** and **Sue Humphries, Angie Rowe, Cath Reid, Dee Jones, Tina Tucker, Sgt Tom Tucker, LCpl Chris Twigg, Sig Rick Lodge** and one of the locals, **Mr Robbie Work** all helping throughout the night. Not an easy job but very well done. The task was not made any easier by **Sgt Chris Liddle** who, halfway through the night, turned into a gibbering wreck and thought he was a Vulcan. The one and only '180' of the event went to **Sgt Steve Rowe**—Well done big man! However **LCpl Tom Anderson ACC** deserves a special mention for getting a score no one else achieved—one! But credit where credit's due—when the chefs were not throwing darts they worked in the kitchen making tea for everyone and curry for a bar lunch when the Marathon finished at mid-day on Sunday. The result of our labours was a final score of 533.342 and about £280 for the RNLI. Once again a very big thanks to all who took part.

Rear L to R: Sgts Jim Sturgeon, Chris Liddle, Dave Humphries, ex Cpl Tony Bracken, Sgts Bob Bagshaw and Steve Rowe
Front L to R: Cpls Jim Reid, John Davidson, LCpl Tom Anderson and Sig Al Northcott

MAYBURY'S OLDEST MEMBER

Saturday 21 November was a special occasion in Maybury Club, one of our oldest Honorary members, **Mr Bobby Smith**, reached the grand old age of 84. **Bobby** comes into the Club every Saturday night and buys a half pint of shandy, a whisky and dry ginger and two packets of crisps for the dog. This has been going on since 1944 when **Bobby** was a member of Sumburgh RAF Sergeants' Mess and he still has his membership card to prove it. To celebrate the occasion the Club presented him with a birthday cake and we persuaded some of the ladies to make a fuss of him, which they readily agreed to do!

25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

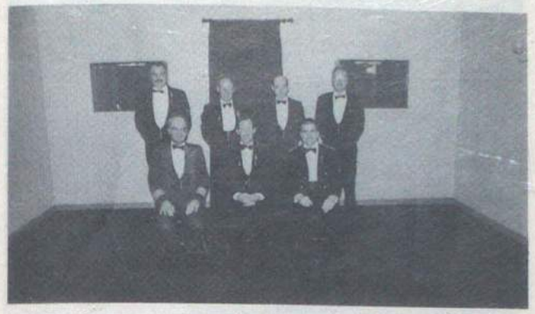
On 23 October 1987 a dinner was held in the Maybury Club to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of NATO (FSS) Shetland.

The guest of honour was **Gp Capt S. G. Dru-Drury**, Commander Central Region Signal Gp. Other guests included **Maj (TOT) W. Cochrane** from the Ace High Management Section, **Chef de Battaillion Jean-Claude Kehervé** representing the French Ace High system and **Sqn Ldr P. Hunter** the Station Commander RAF Saxa Vord.

The Group Captain presented each of the Station Supervisors with a Dutch made plaque depicting the AFCENT crest surrounded by the Station's name.

A presentation on behalf of the French Ace High stations was made by the Chef de Battaillon to the Ace High stations on the Shetland Islands.

During the dinner the opportunity was taken to say farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Lee Brown** and his wife **Jenny** who are leaving Shetland after three years on posting to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.



WO1 (FofS) Brown, Maj (TOT) Cochrane, Sqn Ldr Hunter, and WO1 (FofS) Edwards
In Front: Gp Capt Dru-Drury, Capt Hails and CBa Kerherve

VISIT

In November we were delighted to welcome Commander 51 Highland Brigade, **Brig Purves-Hume** and **Mrs Purves-Hume**. During their first visit in June they had expressed a wish to spend more of their time visiting and chatting to our families and have promised to come again. They were met on the Isle of Unst, which is our most northerly detachment, by **SSgt Ivor Williams**, who entertained the Brigadier and his wife to a buffet lunch in hisquarters joined by the families. The culinary delight was prepared by the buffet expert herself, **Mrs Anne Williams** (rumour has it she served her famed quiche lorraine).

Afterwards the Brigadier and **Mrs Purves-Hume** were then wined and dined by the families at Collafirth Hill organised by **Sgt Alec Clark**, the Station Surpervisor Lastly they were guests at a social evening in our Maybury Club where the OC, **Capt Ron Hails** presented them with a framed photograph of a Shetland Tammie Norie (that's a Puffin to you non Shetlanders). Who knows we may see the Brigadier and his wife again—perhaps for the January Up-Helly-Aa celebrations—we very much hope so.

Brig Purves-Home, Capt Ron Hails and Mrs Purves-Home

HELLO AND GOODBYE

We have had some new blood posted in recently, namely our new Foreman, **WO1 Dave Edwards**, his wife **Elizabeth** and family who have joined the Shetland team direct from Hong Kong. It wasn't such a cultural shock after all as **Mr Edwards** has served on Shetland before and **Elizabeth** has at last got here feet on home ground. Also **SSgt Alex Shaw**, our new Station Chief (NCO IC) at Collafirth Hill, **Barbara** and family. May we wish you all a successful and happy tour with us.

Gone are **WO1 (FofS) Lee Brown** and **Jenny** who are now firmly ensconced in the Iron Division in Soest and **Pte Iain Anderson ACC** (after many farewell parties) who is now feeding the truckies in Aldershot. Gone but not forgotten!

PWSST (Fwd) BFPO 107

In recent months there has been a turnover of almost half the team's personnel, which has most unfortunately resulted in several parties and much revelling (a concept totally alien to PWSST (FWD)! **Capt Suzy Reed** is now sampling the delights of working with the TA whilst **WO2 (YofS) Wayne Brown** and **WO1 (FofS) Lee Randerson** have returned to 'normal' working units. We wish them all the best and offer our congratulations also to **WO1 (ASM) Alan Cook** on his commissioning and posting to Blandford.

Meanwhile, those who thought PWSST (FWD) was going to quieten down were disappointed; the arrival of **Capt Julia Abbott, WO1 (FofS) Chas Dowie, WO1 (ASM) Alec Campbell** and **SSgt (YofS) Sam McElreavey** has ensured that there is to be no peace and quiet.

September saw us out on Ex Reforger which proved to be blissfully quiet, to the extent that two thirds of the log book entries were concerned with **SSgt 'Percy' Thrower**'s shower runs to the local swimming pool. Meanwhile, the Boss, **Maj Andrew Symmons** had been struck dumb by his encounter with an American Combat Linewoman and **Sgt Max Steele** was still trying to convince us all that he had organised helicopter rides; we'd heard it all before. We managed to fit in two days of military training to dispel any rumours that we don't take our soldiering skills seriously.

On Ex Keystone we took lessons in Arabic from **SSgt (YofS) Sam McElreavey** to impress our three Saudi Arabian visitors. They were bemused by the fact that the 'people who fix all the equipment' were sitting in a vehicle with no power and nothing working except a mains extension lamp swinging from the ceiling. Even so, we hope they were suitably impressed!

Back Row L to R: SSgt (YofS) 'Sam' McElreavey, Sgts 'Max' Steele, Phil Newman, SSgt (FofS) Terry Waites and WO1 (FofS) 'Chas' Dowie
Front Row L to R: SSgt 'Billy' McLean, WO1 (ASM) Alan Cook, Cpl 'Scouse' Horabin, Capt Julia Abbott, Sgt 'Scotty' Steven and SSgt (AQMS) 'Percy' Thrower

PWSST (Fwd) Quick Reaction Team!

608 Sig Tp
BFPO 40

From our Reporter
END OF AN ERA (1)

On 1 August 1987 608 Signal Troop (Equipment), to the surprise of some, was renamed 608 Signal Troop (Signals System Support and Inspection Teams). The whys and wherefores are too numerous to mention but it is true to say that, for the original Troop the transformation was slightly traumatic. The new look is a lot different from the unit formed back in 1965 to maintain Corps equipment held in RAOC depots in BAOR and Belgium. That role remains to this day and indeed is bigger than ever though the military strength of a few years ago (19) has been eroded and may end up as three. However, the additions to our establishment will, hopefully, ensure the Troop's number continues to survive. In chronological order they are:- The Royal Signals Inspection Team (RSIT), The Royal Signals Static ADP Team (RSSADPT), three technicians working for Automated Management Information Systems (AMIS) and finally the Ptarmigan and Wavell System Support Team (Forward) (PWSST(FWD)), They are the newest additions to the unit and we welcome them to the fold. If we now include the original Troop, and we are still in there somewhere, the new title, in abbreviated form, 608 Sig Tp (SSIT) consists of 608 Sig Tp (Eqpt), RSIT, RSSADPT, AMIS (DET) and PWSST (FWD). The Troop HQ is in Viersen, RSIT HQ in Dulmen and PWSST (FWD) HQ in Lippstadt, the AMIS boys work in JHQ and RSSADPT are also at Dulmen. We may be small but we spread well. As we all have jobs that take us throughout BAOR and, for some, Belgium and UK it's a bit difficult organising a Troop get together.

We mourn the passing of our old identity and welcome the new, abbreviations and all. 608 Sig Tp (SSIT)—Stand and Take a Bow!

END OF AN ERA (2)

Hands up all those who remember BRUIN—quite a few. Hands up all those who remember using C50 and C70—not so many. Hands up all those, who remember using C41's!—put it down Dad, at your age you shouldn't exert yourself! A lot of you will be surprised to discover that we have just backloaded the last container mounted C41, C50 and C70 Radio Relay stations from BAOR. They were all stored in WMR and in good working condition thanks to our one and only RR Tech **Sgt Russ Dodd**. We believe the oldest C41 was in service before he was born. In the past year **Sgt Dodd** has had to work on C41, C50, C70, Bruin and Ptarmigan Triffids—now that's flexibility.

Also part of the finale to the Bruin era, is a place we affectionately call the 'Graveyard'. It consists of some 70 transportable containers backloaded from the FCZ which we are stripping out. There are Autos, TEVs, Msg Centres, all the old favourites. When the boss **Capt (QM) Mike Stevenson** left 4 Sqn, 22 Sig Regt, to take over the Troop a large portion of the Squadron's Bruin assets followed and are now parked in the 'Graveyard'. There was a mention of old bodies looking after old box bodies but it was only a whisper.

We mourn the passing of the old cantankerous kit we hauled all over the countryside and half loved and half hated. We welcome the new in Ptarmigan and Euromux and look forward to the new challenges and yet more abbreviations!

C41, C50 and C70 stns prior to backloading with from *L to R* LCpls West, Mahon, Sgt Roberts, Capt (QM) Stevenson, Cpls Smith, Hogah and LCpl Lake (Yes we know the antenna left and right should be switched)

Part of the Bruin Graveyard

THE END OF AN ERA (3)
by SSgt Geoff Douglas-Hiley SNCO I/C ODA Det

September 1987 saw the closure of 608 Sig Tp Detachment in Ord Depot Antwerp. The Corps has stationed personnel with the Depot to maintain PUE (pre positioned Unit Equipments) for, we think some 25 years. However, according to a long serving civilian at the Depot he remembers a detachment in Grobbendonk as long ago as 1957, he thought it was called 608, could it have been one of the forerunners to the Troop? Perhaps some of your readers could enlighten us on the matter?

We were all very sorry to leave Belgium where we enjoyed the friendship and hospitality of the Flemish people and the service personnel within ODA. The move to centralise the Troop on Viersen had to happen and is a direct result of manpower and equipment changes. We will now be working in depots throughout BAOR with occasional trips to Antwerp. We have left the Troop real estate in the capable hands of **Mr Marc Hasendonckx** our Storekeeper and look forward to our visits.

We didn't all make the journey to Viersen. **Cpl (at last) 'Taff' Baughan** was posted to 3 ADSR; we congratulate him on his promotion and recent marriage and wish him luck in his new post.

Finally we welcome back our **Combat Powerman Bob 'The Manservant' Mundell** from QEH Woolwich, having made a tremendous recovery following an accident earlier this year when he was badly burned.

END OF AN ERA (4)

Way back in September 1965 **Frau Edith Ratzing** arrived in the Troop as its Clerk just three months after its formation. On 31 December **Edith** retired having served the Troop faithfully from virtual inception to demise. A German lady with an English sense of humour **Edith** will be missed by all. We wish her health and happiness in retirement.;

PS We write this now **Edith** to ensure you will receive a copy of the magazine before you leave on your cruise around the world with your husband. Viel Spass und herzlichen Dank wünschen Ihnen alle Truppenmitglieder in der Vergangen heit und jetzt.

END OF AN ERA (5)

The farewell visit of **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB** Comd Comms BAOR took place on the 10 September 1987. The General had a close relationship with the Troop during his time as Comd Comms BAOR giving us various projects and tasks to execute. We also maintained the Comd Comms equipment pool on his behalf and in which he took a great interest. As with everything in which the General is involved he made everyone feel at ease and the banter flowed. He managed to meet all the Troop in the short time available before going to lunch with the CO of ICP Viersen **Lt Col P. O'Connell RAOC**. We would like to wish the General and his wife health and happiness in retirement and success with his new job as Director of the Army Sports Board.

FAREWELL AND ARRIVALS

Farewell to **Sgt Paul Salmon, Cpl Terry Smith** and **LCpl Steve West** , good luck to you all in your new posts. Welcome to **Sgt Pete Garman** and **Cpl John Hogan** we hope you enjoy your stay with us.

Frau Edith Ratzing has the honour of raising the Troop pennant for the first time in Ord Svcs Viersen ably assisted by the OC. LCpl Lake and Sgt Wall look on impressed

Comd Comms reminisces with SSgt Douglas-Hiley while Cpl Berney listens

Our one and only RR Tech Sgt Russ Dodd meets the General, while the OC Capt (QM) Stevenson looks on

641 Sig Tp
BFPO 18

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt (TOT) Bryan Gallagher**
FofS	**SSgt Colin Peck**

641 Sig Tp must be one of the smallest independent Troops in the Corps, with a total strength of nine. It consists of a TOT and a Foreman, five TE Tech Sergeants and two Telemech Corporals. We are employed in NORTHAG/TWOATAF Static War Headquarters (The Caves) at JOC in the Netherlands.

Troop administration is very diverse, the majority of support being provided by 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT), also in Maastricht. Housing, medical and education facilities are the province of UKDSU, HQ AFCENT at Brunssum in Holland. International support is furnished by ISU No 2 in Tongeren, Belgium. As part of 2ATAF Sig Gp, we are tasked directly by CandE Division 2ATAF in Rheindahlen, Germany and for Royal Signals matters we are one of Commander Comms BAOR's miscellaneous units.

The Foreman and his crew are part of the Signal Group's Maintenance Squadron and their task is to man the JOC Systems Control on a 24 hour basis. Assisted by three German Telephone Operators, they engineer up to 600 voice, telegraph and data circuits. It is normally a routine job but, on exercise, it can be very busy.

With such a small Troop, it is difficult to project an identity, so we integrate with 227 Sqn as much as possible, both socially and for sport. **Sgt Andy 'Slag Heap' Chalmers** is our Troop Star for, as well as representing 227 Sig Sqn and AFCENT very successfully at Hockey, this year he became the Corps Light Weight Boardsailing Champion and was a member of the Royal Signals Team which won the Inter-Corps Competition. Foreman **Colin 'Hello Sailor' Peck** is another Squadron/AFCENT hockey player and is the AFCENT Dinghy Sailing Champion of 1987. He is trying to sort out the Headquarters Ski Club ready for the Winter's snows. **Capt Bryan 'Supervet' Gallagher** is the Troop Whippet, running on the road and at cross-country for AFCENT. This year he was the over 45's 3,000m track and triathlon Champion and runner-up Supervet in the Rhine Army Cross Country League. **Cpl Craig 'What me, Ref?' Wrath** plays football for the Squadron and the Headquarters.

Cpl Mark 'Stan' Stanton runs the local AFCENT Scout Tp in Maastricht, with his wife **Karen**. They recently won the BSWE District Camp Skills and Cooking Competition and then went on to win the County Finals (open to all the British Scouts in Western Europe). The Troop earned a week in Denmark as first prize.

We welcome our latest arrival in Maastricht, **Cpl Wrath**'s wife **Donna** and hope that she and her husband enjoy their tour with us. We also say farewell and bon voyage to **Sgt Chris Tyson** and his wife **Cheryl**, who are off to Blandford. We wish **Chris** good luck on his Foreman's Course.

Sgt Andy Chalmers representing 227 Sig Sqn in the BAOR Inter-Units Championships on 5-6 October 1987 at the Dummersee

Association News

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Your association has 57 branches and eight affiliated branches throughout the United Kingdom. We like to hear your news. Please keep in touch via your magazine. If activities are limited, an annual news letter would be appreciated.

MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY DIAMOND JUBILEE DINNER

The 60th annual dinner of The Middlesex Yeomanry Association was held on Friday 16 October 1987 with the chairman **Mr W. H. Palmer** present. It was the day following the storm which swept across South-East England devastating vast areas and generally causing havoc with the transport services, power lines and communications. Despite all this, over 80 members and guests managed to get to The Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea in time to enjoy a very successful evening.

The Guest of Honour was **Col Sir John Prideaux OBE, TD, DL**, President of The Association, and amongst the distinguished guests were **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave KCB, MC,** Honorary Colonel, 31 Sig Regt (V), **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon,** Regimental Secretary, Royal Signals, **Lt Col C. Stenning TD,** CO 31 Sig Regt (V), **The Rev'd Gordon Watkins,** and there was a special welcome for **Capt Eileen Carter TD, WRAC,** 47 (Middx Yeo) Sig Sqn, who has given so much assistance to the Association over many years. Also present were representatives from The Household Cavalry Regiment, The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Association and The Princess Louise's Kensington's Regimental Association

His Honour Roger Willis TD, proposed the toast to the guests and drew attention to **Sir John**'s distinguished military career. He joined the Middlesex Yeomanry in 1933 and after serving in the Middle East during the early years of the war, was A/Q 2nd Army at the time of the 'D' Day landings in Normandy. In civilian life he is a distinguished banker and is well known for the work he does for charitable organisations.

In reply **Sir John** said that although this was the 60th annual dinner of the formation of the Association as it is known today, the 'Old Comrades' go back much further and he could remember when veterans of the South African War and of Allenby's Campaign 1917 attended annual dinners.

On this special occasion of the Diamond Jubilee the Association sent a message of Loyal Greetings to **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO,** Colonel-in-Chief Royal Signals, and **Sir John** read the Royal Reply.

In closing he said how proud he was of the past and how extremely confident he was in the future in the hands of the young men and women of today.

Our thanks go to all who turned out in such difficult travelling conditions and made the evening such an outstanding success.

We acknowledge with thanks the generous donations of £155 following the Benevolent Appeal made by **Maj R. Miller,** Vice-Chairman, which benefited The Star and Garter Home for Disabled Servicemen, Richmond. The Appeal was on behalf of **John Rollason** a patient at The Royal Star and Garter Home since a serious accident confined him to a wheel chair. He had trained to take part in The Westminster Paraplegic Marathon earlier in the year, but was unable to do so because of an arm injury. **John** was a regular soldier with the Royal Signals, and at one time served with 31 Sig Regt (V). At the time of his accident he held the rank of Corporal.

The Lafone Day Memorial Service was held on the following Sunday and The Guild Church of St Martin-within-Ludgate was filled with members and their families, and a contingent of 47 (Middx Yeo) Sig Sqn (V), who later marched to St Paul's Cathedral and placed wreaths on the Regimental Memorials in the crypt. The parade was headed by the Band of The Middlesex Yeomanry Association by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams MBE, TD.**

VETERANS IN RETIREMENT

What do veterans do when they retire? More often than not they discover new interests and develop talents they did not know they possessed, and **Bobby Lockyer MM** is no exception.

Like so many young men at the time **Bob Lockyer** joined the Territorial Army soon after the Munich crisis when the country was suddenly spurred into action and war seemed imminent.

We first came together at camp in the summer of 1939 whilst serving with the 2 Cavalry Div Sigs (Middx Yeo) where we shared a bell tent with six others. For a fortnight we floundered in ankle deep mud in the lovely Dorset countryside, and our initiation into army life lasted for very much longer than we had really expected.

At the outbreak of war **Bob** was serving with No 4 Sqn, 2nd Middx Yeo (22nd Armd Bde Sig Sqn) and distinguished himself as an ES in the Western Desert when he repaired a wireless set for **Gen Harding** (now **FM Lord Harding**) Commander 7 Armd Div, at the Battle of Alamein. Perched on the back of the Command Tank was not the healthiest spot to set up a workshop, but that is what he did, and the Divisional Commander was able to continue the battle with very little interruption. Later, **Bob** was commissioned into The Royal Signals, but that is another story.

Now retired, **Bob** has lost none of his vitality, and spends most of his time doing charitable work. His great love is making wooden toys. Anything from a garrisoned fort to a fully furnished dolls house, a tank or a steam-roller, book-ends, chess men and puppets. Nothing is beyond his imagination. Just give him an idea and he is away to a converted bedroom, now a well equipped workshop.

His wife, **Margaret**, also shares his love for toy-making and specialises in making a wide variety of soft toys.

They hold several sales during the year and many charities benefit from the proceeds.

But that is not all. **Margaret** is a founder member of The Nottingham Bobbin Lace Society which was formed some 12 years ago and now boasts 500 members, and more wanting to join. **Bob** is also a warden of his Parish Church and can often be seen in his shirt sleeves giving a hand with the maintenance and repair of this ancient building.

Until recently he was Chairman of The Gedling Deanery Synod which comprises 14 parishes, and in his spare time is active in four Masonic Lodges and also finds time to keep in touch with about 200 pensioners as Regional Representative for his former employers.

You might well ask 'How does he do it all?'

I have known this human dynamo for almost half-a-century and there are no signs of him winding down yet, but what an inspiration for those contemplating retirement and wondering how they will fill the void once they are out of the Rat Race!

Bob and Margaret surrounded by some of their toys
Photograph by courtesy of The Nottingham Evening Post.

HARROGATE BRANCH

On the evening of 6 November 1987 112 members and guests of the Harrogate Branch of the Royal Signals Association gathered at the Sergeants' Mess, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate for their annual dinner.

Our guest of honour for this annual occasion was the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** and **Mrs Alexander**. Other guests present were the Commandant of the Army Apprentices College **Col C. T. Garton** and **Mrs Garton** The College Padre **Maj D. Wilkes** and **Mrs Wilkes** and **WO1 (RSM) J. F. P. Faloone** Irish Guards and **Mrs Faloone**.

The turn out this year was our best to date. Amongst those attending we were pleased to welcome 12 Members of the Leeds Branch, **Capt (Retd) G. Geldard** and **Mrs Geldard** who had travelled all the way from Anglesey and **Ex WO2 (ORQMS) Dave Drane** and **Mrs Drane** who had journeyed from Blandford.

On arrival the SOinC was greeted by our president **Maj (Retd) K. G. Doyle** and was then introduced to the members of the committee and those members and guests who had served with him in 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt and 24 Inf Bde.

After an excellent dinner, and a performance by the Regimental Pipe Major, speeches were made by our president who gave a resume on the activities of the Branch during the past year and The SOinC responded by informing the assembled company on the healthy state of the Corps today and how it was keeping up the sporting traditions of yesteryear.

The evening then continued with a raffle and a disco where members and guests were seen to be enjoying themselves until the early hours of the morning when the happy band of revellers departed.

The SOinC and Mr Ken Purnell (Branch Chairman—the meeting of old friends)

The Committee with the SOinC
Maj Ken Doyle, Mr Jack Kendel, Capt R. Canning, Mr 'Chippy' Wood, SOinC Mr Ken Purnell, Mr Adrian Baldachinno and WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

At 1030 hrs on 8 November 1987 a total of 25 members paraded, the largest party of old comrades on the parade, to march behind the Branch Standard. Once again this year the College band led the parade, performing to their usual high standard. The salute was taken by the SOinC who was accompanied on the dais by the Mayor of Harrogate.

(Note for Secretary—please arrange for the Chairman to attend a drill course before next year's parade in order that he be reminded on which foot orders are given.)

After the parade the Branch held a reception in the Harrogate Conservative Club (where we hold our monthly meetings and all social functions) for members, their families and selected guests.

This concluded an excellent and enjoyable weekend for the members of the Branch. Congratulations and thanks to the members of the committee who worked so hard to make it the success that it was.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

The Branch Annual Dinner was held in November at the Osterley Hotel. We were pleased to welcome as our principal guests **Lt Col J. A. Rose** and **Mrs Rose**. They were not strangers to some of our members, who recalled a troop ship at Malta some years ago. **Sgt Brian Murkin** provided music for dancing after dinner, which we must mention catered for all tastes and made the evening. We appreciate the special consideration **Brian** has shown us for some years now and we are cheered by the news that he is extending his service.

We invite the attention of our readers to our new Branch venue. We have returned to Beaver Lane Camp in Hounslow, where we meet on the last Friday of the month at the Civil Service Club. This kindly has been arranged by **Col Rose**, who is the Hounslow Garrison Administration Officer.

We have a number of new members and are happy to say that Branch meetings are well attended. We welcome members of other Branches at our meetings so if you are near enough please just turn up, or give our Secretary, **Cliff Wood**, a call on Ashford (Middlesex) 41279, as, very occasionally, the date has to be changed.

We are glad to have **Cliff** back, fully recovered from a short sojourn in 'The Cambridge', and a longer, happier one in South Africa with relatives, whence he has returned tanned and restored by the sun and what we suspect to have been a bit of pampering.

1942 BOYS COMPANY INTAKE

Many readers will be interested in this photograph sent to us by ex **WO1 John Head.**

Several names are missing from the caption and we look forward to hearing from you if you are able to fill in the gaps. **Carpenter,** (seated fourth from the right) was last seen in Singapore in 1967 just before he left the Corps for a new life in Australia. **John Head** became a Yeoman Warder and is currently with the WD Police. But where are you?

Rear Row Standing: . . . . . , ... , Williams, ... , PEC Davies . . . . . , March, Dunlop, Jeffries . . . . . , Gilman, Claydon and Lihou
Second Row Standing: Crampton, Bowden, Nicholas . . . . . , ... , Harrison, Lombard, Turner, Lovell, Warwick, Head, Greenwood and Maycock
Third Row Standing: Hoad, ... , Searle, ... , ... , ... , Maycock?, ... , Young, Davis, Gavigan, Caine, Savins, Catt? and McCormack
Seated: Reed, Lewis*, Pavey*, Brennan, Blades**, Stan Poole, Maxy Lindley, Ted Strutt, Carpenter, Metcalfe*, Smilie* and Wright
On Ground: Henwood, Pickering, ... , ... , ... , Ashman, ... and . . . . .
*LCpl Boys, Senior boys of last intake 1939. **Tommy Blades, of great Fame!
Stan Poole, WO2, CSM, Maxy Lindley Major Company Commander (OC)

— Sport —

BASKETBALL

ANNUAL TOUR

Report by Maj (TOT) T. J. Everett Secretary Corps Basketball

A Squad of 15 assembled at Blandford to commence training at 0900 hrs on Saturday 21 November some old faces and some new. The coach/captain **Sgt Fred Tedby** worked everyone hard for the full day.

First matches are in a triangular competition at Royal Marines Poole on Sunday 22 with the Royal Navy and Poole Bay Aztecs being the other competing sides and **SSgt Joe Pearson** from the School of Signals assisting as floor official for all three matches. First game Signals versus Poole. Signals started well to a 10—4 lead in the first few minutes, Poole pull back to trail only one point at 16—15 by nine minutes but the remainder of the first half is dominated by Signals who close down the defence with hard work followed with strong inside work in offence by **Rab Mulholland** ably supported with good breaking by **Andy Brown** and set shooting from **Fred Tedby,** these backed up by **'Stu' Fell, 'Stu' Budd** and **Eddie Williams**. This kept Poole off balance and Signals lead 42—17 at the half. In the second half **Coach Tedby** runs some of the bench through and all work hard with **Les Robinson** and **'Stu' Budd** featuring on the scoresheet and Signals maintaining the cushion of 20 points to run out winners at Signals 71 Poole 49.

In the second match of the triangular Navy prove too strong for Poole and run out winners of an open game at Navy 85 Poole 63.

Signals second match is versus the Royal Navy. Navy go into an early lead but by the thirteenth minute Signals have worked to produce a 28—15 lead with hard work in defence followed by fast breaks from **Eddie Williams** and **Andy Brown** and some good determined work from **'Stu' Fell** inside on the boards. The Navy work hard and peg back to a half time score Signals 36 Navy 29.

For the first few minutes of the second half Signals maintain the small lead but lose their way. Navy catch up at 44 each and by the fourteenth minute go to a 12 point lead at 68—56. Signals fight back with **Rab Mulholland** inside and **Fred Tedby** with set shots including a three pointer to get back to Signals 66 Navy 68 in the eighteenth minute, Navy apply pressure in offence and pick up fouls from Signals to shoot out to a win for Navy from the free throw line despite a three pointer from **Eddie Williams** in the closing seconds. Final score Signals 69 Navy 74.

Monday, a short training session in the morning followed by a match versus Southampton University at Southampton in the evening. The Signals start well scoring straight from the tip off then with good defensive hustling followed by fast breaks from **Andy Brown** and **Eddie Williams** take Signals quickly to a 22—10 lead. **Coach Tedby** starts to feed the team through. A good period of aggression under the offensive boards by **Andy McClenaghan** keeps Signals head at 32—24 at the half. **Coach Tedby** continues to run the substitutes through and although under pressure Signals hang on in the second half with good efforts from **'Stu' Budd, 'Les' Robinson** and **Mark Reeves** to run out winners Signals 59 University 54.

Tuesday was supposed to be a rest day with a leasurely move to Aldershot for the Inter Corps Tournament commencing at 0900 hrs on Wednesday, in the event, due to late entries to the competition, all had changed so Signals had to play two games instead of having a rest. The first at 1300 hrs versus the Infantry and tnen REME at 1630 hrs. So far we have managed to win two out of three playing rather indifferently so two early games so close together give cause for concern.

First the Infantry. Signals start well fast breaks from **Eddie Williams** and **Fred Tedby 'and Fred?'** Good offensive work under the boards from **'Stu' Fell** and **Rab Mulholland. Andy Brown** working hard as is **Andy McClenaghan** when he comes on. This team really looks as though it wants to win at last. First half Signals 44 Infantry 24. Second half Signals maintain control, **Andy McClenaghan** and **'Stu' Budd** working well inside, **John Hiorns, Mark Reeves** and **Les Robinson** on the break and in support. **Bob Mahoney** and **Bob Whipp** also contributing, Signals run out winners at 90 to Infantry 54. A much better performance from the whole of the Signals squad.

At 1630 the old opponents REME. Signals start well going to a 23—13 lead with good work from big men **Fred Tedby, 'Stu' Fell** and **Rab Mulholland** in offence and hard work by all in defence. Signals lose their way trying to play the big men after REME have closed them down and a period of poor play allows REME back into the lead by one point at the half, at 32 to Signals 31. At the start of the second half a three pointer from **Fred Tedby** put Signals back in front where they stay until the ninth minute when REME catch up again to go in front 42—41, they stretch their lead to six points but Signals fight back to lead at 60—59 in the eighteenth minute. Unfortunately REME manage two more baskets without reply from the Corps and win at Signals 60 to REME 65. Lack of cohesion in offence has allowed this one to slip away.

Wednesday 25 and two more games, the first versus the Royal Artillery.

Signals start somewhat hesitantly and RA go to an early lead at 12 to Signals 5; a time out and a wake up talk from **Coach Tedby** and Signals go back on and take command of the game with good defence from everyone and some strong offence from **Rab Mulholland** and **'Stu' Fell** under the boards take Signals to a 43—29 lead at the half. The first five start the second half, two points straight from the tip off by **Andy Brown** then inside by **Rab Mulholland** set by **Fred Tedby**, breaks from **Eddie Williams**, then **'Stu' Fell** inside take Signals to a 58—38 lead. Sub in **Steve Roberts** and **John Smith** the rhythm continues, sub in **Andy McClenaghan, Mark Reeves** and **Bob Whipp**, Signals continue to dominate, in come **John Hiorns** and **John Rowe** and the pace continues to a final score of Signals 99 RA 62. A good performance by the entire bench after a shaky start.

That same evening the next opponents are APTC. Signals start the game with determination and proceed to play the best offensive ball they have played all week. Starting with three points from **Fred Tedby,** determined cutting from **Rab Mulholland** and **'Stu' Fell** and fast breaking from **Andy Brown** and **Eddie Williams**, Signals go to a 29—11 lead by the twelfth minute dominating both offence and defence. The APTC will fight until the last second and proceed to go so as Signals tire a little from their early efforts. **'Stu' Fell** continues the good work inside but APTC are relentless and fight back to Signals 41 APTC 30 by the half. The second half starts with two points from **Mark Reeves** who has replaced **Andy Brown** in foul trouble. APTC reduce the deficit to eight at 41—49 by the fifth minute but a better offensive spell for Signals with scoring from **Mark Reeves** and **'Stu' Fell** stretch the lead back to 14 at 57 to APTC 43. A tired and lack lustre period of offensive play allows APTC back to four at Signals 64 APTC 60 in the sixteenth minute, at this crucial time a pass inside to **Fred Tedby** from **Rab Mulholland** goes straight into the basket for three points a stroke of luck that lifted Signals spirits in the crucial last couple of minutes. Signals winners at 73 to APTC 66 despite two last minute three pointers from APTC. An excellent performance from Signals to win against APTC for the first time.

Thursday and our first match is at 0930 against the RAC. Despite the morning after the night before feeling in the minds and bodies the Signals first five go out and prove far too strong from RAC, going to a 28—8 lead by the tenth minute. **Coach Tedby** feeds through the bench **Andy McClenaghan, 'Stu' Budd, John Rowe, 'Les' Robinson** and **John Smith** are fed in and find that if you don't get your act together you're just as likely to do badly even against less skilful opposition. RAC make a determined fight back and score 16 points to Signals 6 over the next six minutes. Signals settle a little and stop the rot to run out ahead by 14 points at half time, Signals 43 RAC 29.

Second half following some stern words from **Coach Tedby** during the break and Signals go out and take charge with good individual work by **Les Robinson** supported inside by **John Rowe** and **'Stu' Budd** and outside by **Bob Whipp** taking Signals to a lead of 65—46 in the fourteenth minute. The first five came back on for the last five minutes and good steady work by all took Signals in the end to a comfortable win, Signals 88 RAC 56.

Thursday evening and another important match versus RE. Signals were off to a poor start, by the eleventh minute we were 14—27 down and although defending reasonally well do not seem to be able to get the lead out of the boots in offence and a very low percentage of the set shots are going in. Signals stick to the task and by the half keep the deficit to 10 with a last second three pointer from **Andy Brown.**

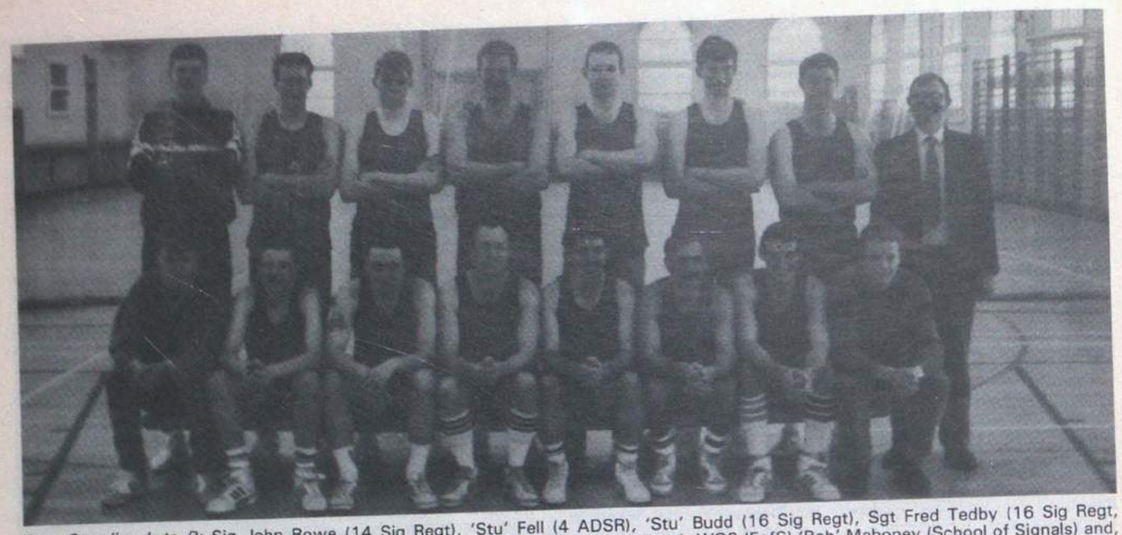
Second half and RE score direct from the tip but Signals come back to within a point with a series of good set shots from **Fred Tedby** and **Eddie Williams** and good rebounding and scoring from **Rab Mulholland** and **'Stu' Fell**. RE come back to stretch, their lead to eight again and Signals fight back to three out again to 10. This seesaw never allowing Signals to sieze the initiative, time runs out with RE still in front, a loss for the Signals at 73 to RE 78. Now with two losses Signals are no longer in charge of their own destiny as far as first and second in the tournament is concerned, it depends on the results of other matches and the scores obtained for the opposing teams.

Friday sees the Signals playing their match versus the ACC, the Chefs coach/captain **WO2 Tim Brown** is currently serving with 16 Sig Regt. The Chefs score first going to an early 6—2 lead but Signals settle down and with big men **Tedby, Fell** and **Mulholland** dominating the boards at both ends and sending **Brown** and **Williams** on a series of breaks to lead 33 to Chefs 17 by the twelfth minute. Good driving by the Signals side put the Chefs into foul trouble but Signals do not capitalise and later when Signals get into foul trouble **Tim Brown** gives a demonstration of how to get your team back into the game using the oppositions foul problems to reduce the deficit from the free throw line. A good fight back by the Chefs who are held at bay by the Signals with a period of good driving and shooting by **'Stu' Fell** to keep Signals in front at 47—41 at the half.

The first 10 minutes of the second half are nip and tuck with the Chefs fighting back to within one point, 54—55. Good work by **Andy McClenaghan** and **'Stu' Budd** inside combined with driving from **Andy Brown** and some good set shooting from **'Les' Robinson** and **Eddie Williams** take Signals back to a 13 point lead at 75 to Chefs 62, the Chefs fight back but time runs out for them with Signals holding their own at 85 points to Chefs 78. Another good win for Signals over opponents that have beaten us in previous years.

Our final game is on Saturday morning versus the RCT. They have run some of the other teams close, so Signals cannot afford to relax. A hesistant start with both sides missing chances, then Signals start to get their act together and with well organised but unhurried play they go to a 49—19 lead at half time, never having looked as though they had got into gear during the half. In the first minute of the second half they stretch their lead to 36. This is followed by a period of 12 minutes where the Signals fail to get their offence together and come under pressure in defence allowing RCT to reduce the deficit to 19 points. The Signals hold at that and run out the last three minutes basket for basket to win at Signals 77 to RCT 58. A strange match where the effects of 10 previous matches seemed to be showing.

Our final match was followed by the match between APTC and RE, if APTC win that would mean two losses each for RE, APTC and ourselves in second, third and fourth places would be decided on 'points for'. Not in our favour especially as we had let a potential ton get away in our match with RCT. If RE win then APTC will have lost three and Signals will be third in the Tournament behind REME and RE. In the event RE win fighting back from a 16 point deficit, a creditable performance that gives Signals an uncontested third position out of nine in the Tournament, an improvement over the two previous years when we were fifth on both occasions. It also gives RE second irrespective of the result of the final match between ACC and REME, the previous years winners and runners up. If REME win they will have won all eight and win the Tournament, if they lose they will have only lost one as have RE and the result of the match between them decides. REME won so will win the Tournament in either event. The match proved very entertaining, ACC are determined to go out well following some disappointments earlier in the week and its a matter of pride for REME to win if possible. In the event REME fight back from a 10 point deficit to two up in the last seconds, to be thwarted by ACC in the last touch of the match scoring a three pointer on the final whistle. A fitting end to a good Tournament. Nobody had a clean sweep of victories.



Rear Standing L to R: Sig John Rowe (14 Sig Regt), 'Stu' Fell (4 ADSR), 'Stu' Budd (16 Sig Regt), Sgt Fred Tedby (16 Sig Regt, Capt/Coach), Cpl Rab Mulholland (8 Sig Regt), Sig Andy McClenaghan (8 Sig Regt), WO2 (FofS) 'Bob' Mahoney (School of Signals) and, Maj (TOT) Terry Everett (HQ Int Centre, Secretary)

Front Sitting L to R: Sig 'Bob' Whipp (4 ADSR), Cpl Eddie Williams (16 Sig Regt), Sig Mark Reeves (16 Sig Regt), SSgt (FofS) Steve Roberts (16 Sig Regt), WO2 John Smith (14 Sig Regt), SSgt 'Les' Robinson (28 Sig Regt), LCpl Andy Brown (13 Sig Regt) and Sgt John Hiorns (16 Sig Regt)

A very good performance by the Signals Squad coached and led by **Sgt Fred Tedby** able assisted by **Cpl Rab Mulholland** and every member of what was a predominantly young squad which augers well for the future. As team manager I feel it was within our capability to win the Inter Corps Tournament this year but a couple got away. The scalps of APTC and ACC were taken with pleasure as we have lost to them in the past, it was unfortunate that REME beat us after we had won against them for the first time ever last year.

Farewells were given to **'Stu' Fell** who is leaving the service before next year's Tournament, a talented player who produced the goods for the Corps this year, playing better on his swansong than he ever has before on the Corps Tour. Another stalwart to leave the Army is **Sgt Colin Elstob** who we were hoping was coming on tour as bench coach after many years as a Corps player. A send off was given in BAOR, I believe. Good luck and thanks **Colin**. Overall results are below played eleven, won eight, lost three, losing margins five points Navy, three points REME and five points RE—we should have had them all. Well done everyone who participated and thanks to **Staff Joe Pearson** for his refereeing. It was a pleasure to host **Col 'Mike' Hales** for the RE match and our President **Brig 'Bill' Robins** who was luckier with the RA and the RCT matches to see two wins.

RESULTS

Opponents	Result	For	Against
1 Poole Bay Aztecs	Won	71	49
2 Royal Navy	Lost	69	74
3 Southampton University	Won	59	54
4 Infantry	Won	90	54
5 REME	Lost	60	63
6 RA	Won	99	62
7 APTC	Won	73	66
8 RAC	Won	88	56
9 RE	Lost	73	78
10 ACC	Won	85	78
11 RCT	Won	77	58

Sgt Tedby contesting in defence against Inf

Final positions in the Inter Corps Tournament, matches 4 to 11 inclusive.

1st	REME	6th	INF
2nd	RE	7th	RCT
3rd	R Signals	8th	RA
4th	APTC	9th	RAC
5th	ACC		

BOARDSAILING

FIRST ROYAL SIGNALS BOARDSAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first Corps boardsailing championships were held on 30 September 1987 at Thruscross Reservoir near Harrogate. Despite the light winds some good competitive sailing was managed. The results were as follows:

Heavyweight Class:
1st **SSgt Smith** 8 Sig Regt
2nd **Cpl Dickson** 16 Sig Regt
3rd **Capt Daisey** 16 Sig Regt

Lightweight Class:
1st **Sgt Chalmers** 641 Sig Tp
2nd **Sgt Mamer** 16 Sig Regt
3rd **Cpl Wooding** 238 Sig Sqn

Team:
1st 16 Sig Regt
2nd School of Signals

Racing in 1988 will be centred on a three day event, possibly at Browndown Camp. It is hoped that such an event will draw a large following from units and individuals throughout the Corps. In addition to this it is intended to enter in inter-corps events throughout the season.

Happy boardsailing and we look forward to some exciting competitions in the new year.

HOCKEY

The BAOR Royal Signals Units, Six—A-Side Hockey competition was started. It took place in Rheindahlen on 10/11 April. The Tournament was sponsored by White Knights (UK) Ltd, who provided the main prizes and then a strip and tracksuits for the Corps Team.

The Tournament involved 137 Royal Signals hockey players from 15 different Units producing 18 teams. The teams were split into four leagues and the league matches were all completed on 10 April. The first three teams from each league entered the main knockout competition and the rest took part in the plate knockout competition. The leagues were closely contested with only 21 Sig Regt 'A' not dropping any points.

The next morning the knockout competitions took place. The plate final was 28 Sig Regt 'B' v 16 Sig Regt 'B' (a replay of their league match which 28 Sig Regt won 1—0). 16 Sig Regt, however started well and scored with a penalty flick inside the first minute. Again early in the second half 16 Sig Regt scored another and although 28 Sig Regt scored one shortly after and had most of the pressure for the second half 16 Sig Regt 'B' held out to win the Plate Final.

In the main White Knights competition both semi-finals ended in 0—0 draws. 28 Sig Regt 'A' beat 3 ADSR 'B' 3—2 on penalty flicks and the same result led to 22 Sig Regt beating 21 Sig Regt 'A'.

The final saw 28 Sig Regt 'A' score goals either side of half time. However a spirited revival by 22 Sig Regt saw them score one goal half way through the second half but they could not convert their pressure into an equalising goal. So 28 Sig Regt 'A' became the winners of the inaugural White Knights Royal Signals BAOR Six-A-Side Tournament. **Brig** and **Mrs Noel Moss** kindly came from SHAPE to present the prizes.

The other Corps hockey involvement was in the Inter Corps Hockey Tournament. Our league consisted of five teams: RAC, R Signals, REME, RAPC and ACC. The four games were played over two days and the results in order of play are below:-

v RAPC	Drew 1—1
v REME	Lost 1—3
v RAC	Won 1—0
v ACC	Won 11—0

Although the 11—0 victory against the ACC was the best result of the whole competition we only finished third in our group. The REME and RAPC went through to the knockout competition and in fact met in the final which after extra time was 0—0. The RAPC won on penalty flicks. Our consolation was that we were the only team to score against this season's Inter Corps winners—RAPC.

Standing L to R: Lt Col David Lowe (Chairman), Sgt 'Nev' Smykle, WO2 Chris Martin, Cpl Andy Baugham, Sgt Paul Flintham, Lt 'Matt' Hansen, Sig Paul Sparkes, Sgt Keith Tilman (Coach) and Capt Alan Eames (Selector)

Front L to R: WO2 Dave Kent, 2Lt Adrian Clewlow, Sgt Andy Marston-Weston, Cpl Joe Marsden, WO2 'Nic' Hammett (Captain), Capt Paul Wilkin (Sec), Cpl Andy Crabtree and Sgt Derrick Payne

Absent: Lt Nick Pope (injured) and Sgt Graham Cottrall (Comp)

Standing L to R: Brig Noel Moss, LCpl Ali McKittrick, Cpl John Badder, SSgt Mick Dawson and WO2 Chris Martin (Captain)

Front L to R: Lt Col Brian Chubb, WO2 Martin Roberts, Capt Paul Wilkin and Sgt Graham Kendall

ORIENTEERING

1987 ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Report by Maj R. Rumford

1987 saw the arrival of two orienteering Commanding Officers: **Lt Col Stokoe** to 14 Sig Regt and **Lt Col Farrimond** to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Needless to say, both these Regiments have thriving orienteering teams and this enthusiasm proved itself at the Royal Signals Championships held at Hagensand and Brelinger Berge north of Hannover on 14/15 November 1987. The Championships were combined on Day 1 with a 1 Armd Div league event and over 200 runners turned up on what turned out to be a nice day. The Day 1 courses were planned by **SSgt Cook** QOH and he managed to give everyone a good run for their money with plenty of route choice. With a flat countryside, the forest favoured runners and fast times were recorded by 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt runners, some of whom were members of their very successful cross-country team. However, with the talented **Sgt Backhouse**, an Army orienteer, 14 Sig Regt was just ahead at the end of Day 1. In the minor unit competition, there was much rivalry between 211 and 212 Sig Sqns, not forgetting 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt.

Day 2 was a relay event which attracted 15 teams. The courses were set by **LBdr Priestley** on 1 RHA and the controller was **Capt Marshall REME** both Army orienteerers. The day started off wet but by the time of the first mass start, had luckily stopped. The lesson not to followed other orienteerers had not been learned by all and several runners mis-punched, much to the annoyance of team Captains. As the minutes dragged by and the third leg runners were off, it became obvious that the lead 14 Sig Regt has over 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt could not be beaten and they were overall major unit champions.

The competition between the minor units was resolved by the regrettable mis-punching by runners from both 211 and 212 Sig Sqns, and 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt became minor unit champions. The prizes were presented by **Brig Waugh**, Commander 1 Sig Bde.

Of course, I should say that the Commanding Officers of both Regiments mentioned at the beginning ran for their teams (age is no barrier!). Now next year, the competition will be near Hemer with hills to help those in the central 1 (BR) Corps and RCZ areas!

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY

Three match reports are given below for the games played before Christmas versus RMCS, Wimborne and the RAPC. All three games were won and some attractive rugby was played. Points For—71, Points Against—13. The problem for Corps rugby remains much the same, the impossibility of assembling the best players due to exercise commitments, courses and in a few cases apathy. On the positive side the three games played showed that there is considerable depth of talent, particularly in the backs; in all 34 players wore a Corps jersey in the three games. Unfortunately the strength amongst the backs is not matched by that of the larger forwards and the front row against the RAPC, although they played extremely well, must have been one of the smallest ever fielded by a Corps side. Where's the beef?

Thanks must go to all those who turned up to play and to those who attended as reserves. Also thanks to unit commanders and rugby officers for all their support—a plea that it should continue for the games in the early part of 1988, when the games will be:-

RAOC	27 January 1988	Blandford
RA	22 February 1988	Larkhill
REME	24 February 1988	Arborfield
RCT	26 February 1988	Blandford
RE	4 March 1988	Blandford

ROYAL SIGNALS v RMCS SHRIVENHAM AT SHRIVENHAM 21 OCTOBER 1987
Result RMCS 3 R Signals 19

Before the game the weather was blustery with some heavy showers but throughout the match the weather was kind with sunshine and a good breeze from the west. The Corps won the toss and elected to play into the wind in the first half.

From the outset the Corps side settled down well, the pack providing good ball and the backs handling well. The first score came in the 15th minute from a quickly taken penalty, **Sig Sorley** made a particularly incisive break before giving a scoring pass to **Sgt Keates**. The try was not converted. The second try came three minutes later after more quick passing allowed **Sgt Stephenson** to squeeze over in the corner. Again the try was unconverted. The first half continued with a penalty being scored by **Sgt Keates** before a period of prolonged pressure from RMCS was absorbed and their attacks contained with some good solid tackling. Just before half time the Corps scored again from a good rolling maul which ended with **Sgt Kessel** breaking away to hand on to **LCpl Halliday** who made a good run up the right wing. **Halliday's** inside pass to **Lt Sharman** was well timed and **Lt Cooper** scored near the posts. Again the kick was not successful.

The first half finished with the Corps 15—0 up before turning round to play with the wind.

Unfortunately the promise of the first half was not fulfilled, although a good run from **Lt Sharman** five minutes into the half, following good mauling by the pack led to another uncoverted try. RMCS resistance was considerably stronger and they counter attacked well, frequently led by a Corps subaltern, **Lt Brammer**. The second half was characterised by some good possession from the forwards being squandered by poor passing by the three-quarters. However the excellent tackling throughout prevented RMCS scoring more than a single penalty.

In summary therefore a good opening game for **Lt Sharman** as Captain with some strong features on show and fortunately our weaknesses not being exploited by the opposition. The strong features were good half back play, strong tackling and energetic support from the back row; place kicking, scrummaging and at times passing by the three-quarters were features for future improvement.

The team was: **Sgts Keates, Stephenson, LCpl Romain, Sig Sorley, Cpl Glean, LCpls Harwood, Halliday, Sgt Kessel, LCpl Mundie, Sig Mactague, Lt Davies, Cpl Vowles, Lt Sharman (Capt), Lt Cooper and Cpl Philips.**

R SIGNALS v WIMBORNE II—WIMBORNE 31 OCTOBER 1987
Result: Wimborne II 3, R Signals 8

After a very wet pratice session in the morning the conditions for the match at Wimborne were surprisingly good, although the rain showers returned during the game.

The Corps side was severley shaken by the first maul of the match at which Wimborne very nearly scored after driving the Corps back at great speed. This seemed to be the challenge needed and from then on the lighter Corps pack played extremely well in the loose and the lineouts whilst being generally outscrummaged.

The first score came after five minutes when **Sgt Keates** joined the line and ran over for a well executed try after good line-out possession; the try was not converted. Unfortunately after another five minutes **LCpl Davidson** had to leave the field but fortunately **Cpl Williams** was available as a utility player to take his place on the wing. The game continued to be hard fought but then the Corps broke away again after 20 minutes and a maul near the Wimborne line ended with **Sgt George** scoring a good try, which was again unconverted.

That ended the scoring for the Corps and from then on it was a hard game with much good tackling and mauling leading to a few pieces of attractive back play. The only other score was a penalty by Wimborne. At the end it was a thoroughly exhausted Corps team that ended with an 8—3 win due to in the main to great determination.

The team was: **Sgt Keates, LCpl Davison (Sub Cpl Williams), Sig Sorley, Lt Cubbins, Cpl Walker, LCpls Harwood, Halliday, Lt Sharman (Capt), Sgt George, LCpl Henrie, Cpls Vowles, Philips, Lt Ingles, Sig Clements, Lt Selby.**

R SIGNALS v RAPC—BLANDFORD 4 NOVEMBER 1987
Result: R Signals 44 RAPC 7

A perfect day for an open game of rugby. The Corps fielded yet another variation of a Corps team and was unfortunate, although some might say careless, to lose two forwards during the practice session in the morning.

The game started in the same vein with **Cpl Walker** having to leave the field after only five minutes with a cut near his eye. He was replaced by **Sig Simmonds**, another of that seemingly bottomless pit of talented backs in 30 Sig Regt. That was where the misfortune ended as the Corps then quickly put **Lt Whimpenny** over in the corner from a maul to open the score. After that points came regularly throughout the first half and **Sig Bartliff** gave notice of his considerable running talent and strength by finishing off two good three quarter moves with powerful runs to score in the corner. **Lt McCourt** added another try following **Lt Sharman's** pickup from the base of the scrum near the RAPC line and the first half ended with the Corps leading 16—3.

With the wind in our favour in the second half a further five tries were scored, two by **Sig Bartliff**, two by **Sig Simmonds** and a second by **Lt Whimpenny** showing great pace to score near the posts. **Sgt Keates** converted four of the tries to keep himself amongst the scorers. The game ended with the Corps winning 44—7. The game had some excellent running but some poor passing caused many more scoring opportunities to be wasted. There remains a need for concentration on doing the simple things well, to play as part of a team and to concentrate throughout the game.

The team was: **Sgt Keates, Cpl Walker (Sub Sig Simmonds), Lt Richardson, Sig Bassington, Bartliff, LCpl Harwood, Lt McCourt, Sgt Wallace, LCpl Malvern, Lt Whimpenny, Cpl Vowles, Sig Curtis, LCpl Henrice, SSgt Webb, Lt Sharman (Capt).**

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- Clandestine radio equipment from World War II.

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. 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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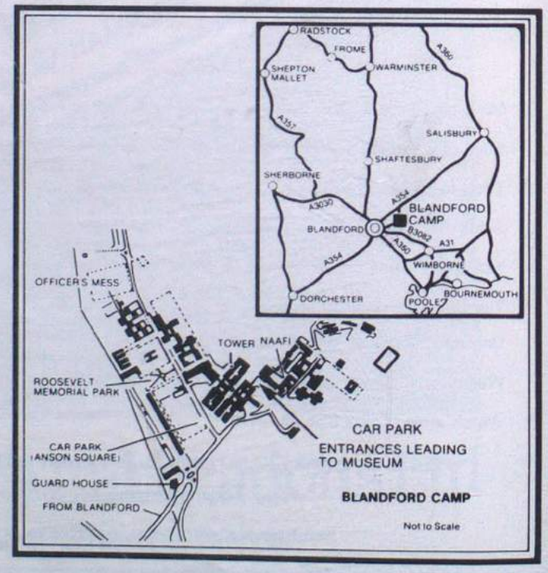
BLANDFORD CAMP, DORSET



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THE
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The Royal Signals Magazine
March 1988

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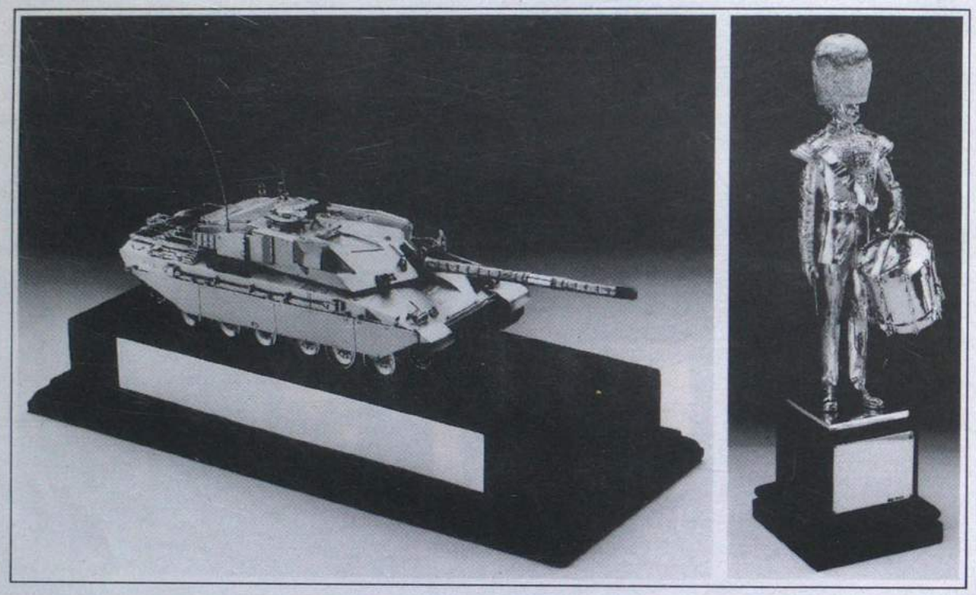

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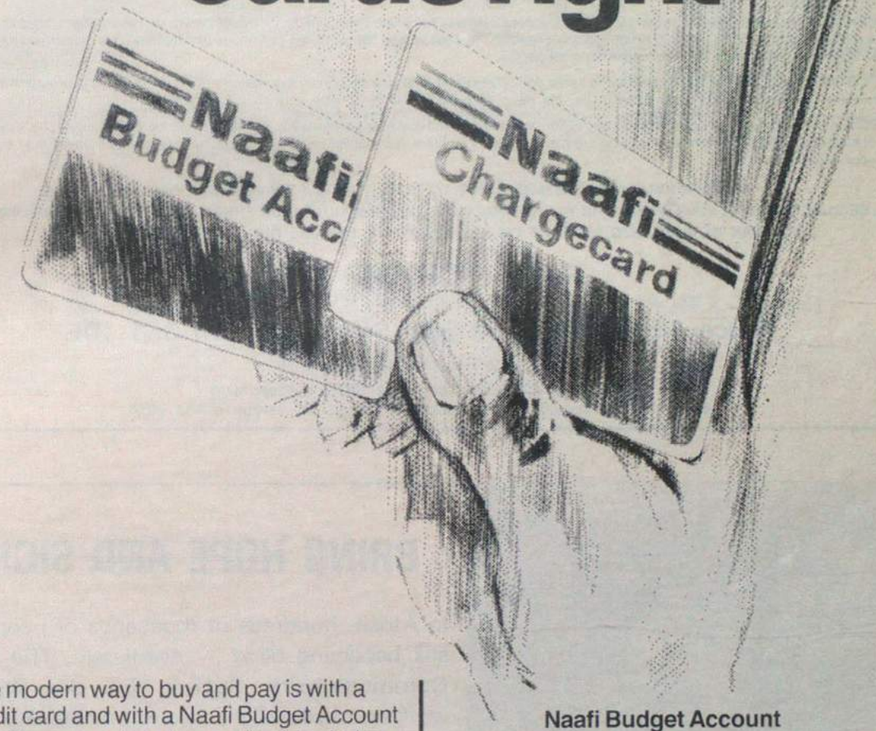

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

CORPORAL DAVID HOWES AND CORPORAL DEREK WOOD

As we go to press the tragic news of the deaths of **Corporal David Howes** and **Corporal Derek Wood** has been received. The two were murdered in Belfast during a funeral incident, and the horrifying details were subject to full media coverage. We extend deep sympathy to the parents of both these fine young NCOs in their tragic loss.

OUR COVER PICTURE
EDINBURGH CASTLE GUARD

Featured on the front cover are the Guards of 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and 38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) who mounted the Guard at Edinburgh Castle in November/December last year. They are the first Royal Signal Regiments to be accorded this honour. 38 Signal Regiment have the distinct honour of being the first Regiment ever, either regular or TA of any Arm, from England, to be invited to mount the Guard at Edinburgh Castle.
A full report appears on pages 126 and 127.

32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Standing (L to R): Cpl Ian McKay, Sig Kenny Graham, 'Bam Bam' McLeod, George Young, LCpl John Callaghan, Cpl Douglas 'DY' Smith, LCpl Brian Hamilton, Sig George Popp and LCpl Alistair McPherson
Seated (L to R): Sig Billy Henery, LCpl Jamie Wright, Cpl Tony Cryans, Sgts Adrian Appleyard, 'Hutch' Hutchinson, Sig Earl Over and Steven McVey

38th Signal Regiment (V)
Rear Row (L to R): Sig Brownell, LCpl Medley, Sig Burton, Cfn Hardy, Cpl Hamilton, LCpls Annable, Hawley, Grant and Sig Liddell
Front Row (L to R): Sig Gaines, Cpl (now Sgt) Hodges, Cpl Stannet, Sgt Quantick, Sgt Lyle, Cpl Switzer and Sig Kelly

– From our "In" Tray –

EDINBURGH CASTLE GUARD

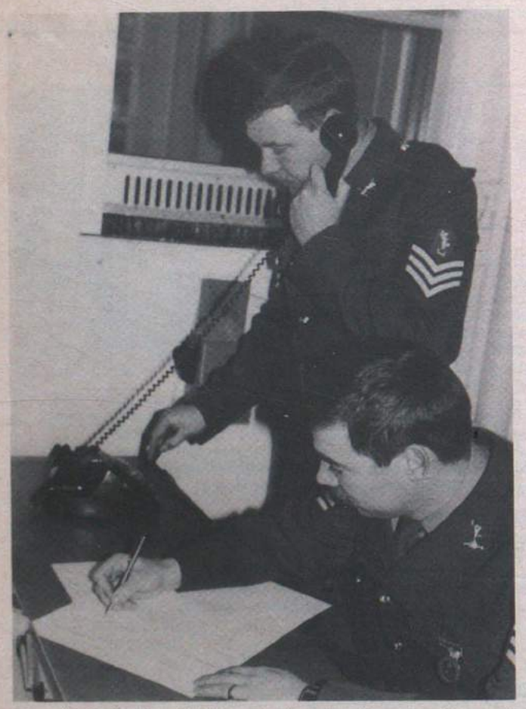
32ND (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

On Monday 30 November 1987, 32 Sig Regt (V) mounted the Edinburgh Castle Guard, the first Royal Signals Unit to take on the task. It was a memorable occasion.

Being St Andrew's Day, tourists and many locals were there to watch the 15 TA soldiers mounting the Castle Guard. **LCpl John Callaghan** and **Sig Stewart Young** were the first on sentry, posted by **Cpl Douglas Smith**. It went well and in the bright sunshine, with bayonets fixed, white belt, gloves and boots gleaming, the two sentries and NCO IC reliefs, marched on to the Esplanade. It was a sight to stir the heart. Training for the guard consisted of basic drill in TACs throughout the autumn with a concentrated two day training period at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh to get the double sentry drill and posting 'off to a tee'. It was not an easy task, the two guards, one a mixture of 38 Sig Regt (V) and 32 Sig Regt (V) and one purely 32 Sig Regt (V), were difficult to find. With increased job opportunities in Scotland, many could not get time off work and perhaps a few got cold feet. The PSIs of course 'volunteered' to a man to take part and **Sgts 'Taff' Braid, 'Hutch' Hutchinson, Bill Smith** and **Adrian Appleyard** all took turns as Guard Commander with **Cpls Steve Switzer** and **Tony Cryans** filling in as NCO IC reliefs.

Training time was at a premium and with such a mixture of standards, great credit must go to the training staff, **SSgt Dave Cormack, Sgt Clive Smith** (38 Sig Regt) and **Cpl Douglas Smith** for attaining such a high standard. The square at Redford Barracks was a hive of activity as the instructors, under the eye of the RSM **WO1 Steve May**, produced the goods and late into the night the hiss of the steam iron, the small circles on boots and the sound of more drill echoed down the corridor of the accommodation block. All members of the Guard worked hard and it was all worth while when on St Andrew's Day, on a bright crisp morning the cry of 'take post' echoed around the castle walls.

LCpl John Callaghan, Sig George Young and Cpl Douglas 'DY' Smith at change of reliefs . Sig Earl in front of Sentry Box



Sgts 'Taff' Braid and Adrian Appleyard taking over the castle guard room

38TH SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)
THE OFFICIAL VERSION!

On 10 November 1987 we were asked by 32 Sig Regt (V) if we could assist them by providing 16 men to mount Castle guard, in Edinburgh, over the period 30 November to 9 December vice the Royal Highland Fusiliers who were on exercise in Kenya.

This request was accepted by the CO and RSM and the call went out the following training night for volunteers to cross the border into the unknown!

After an initial rush of 22 volunteers the number, for various reasons ie work and in some instances cold feet, a total of one SNCO, five JNCOs and five Signalmen were available to go to Scotland.

During the period 10-27 November the QM's Dept was frantically busy in issuing, fitting and tailoring No 2 Dress and all the ancillary items and the soldiers themselves were borrowing boots DMS from the longer serving members of the Regiment. It was to **WO2 (RQMS) Carl Clark-Darby** and **Cpl Stuart Dalby**'s credit that on the final day all soldiers were fully kitted out.

The Guard was transported to Doncaster Station on the morning of Tuesday 27 November where the RSM, prior to departure, gently reminded them of what was expected of them and that hard work and long hours lay ahead of them.

The next day began with reveille at 0600 hrs followed by a run and from then on it was, drill, bulling of boots, pressing of No 2 etc. They were also fitted out with greatcoats, white belts, slings and gloves which all had to be tailor adjusted.

It was to the soldiers' credit they 'Bit the Bullet' and got 'Stuck in', and on 1 December 38 Sig Regt (V) mounted Castle Guard at 0900 hrs for the first time.

There were many butterflies in stomachs that day but once the first stage was over it was all downhill, one day on guard, and the following day taken up by refresher drill and upkeep of kit. Time flew past and all too soon it was the handing back of greatcoats and the journey back to Sheffield, where they were met by the various Squadrons to transport them back to their respective TACs.

All in all, a great time, and the soldiers who had taken part will no doubt be much admired and envied when they recount how they were part of the first English Regiment to provide an Edinburgh Castle Guard.

FOOTNOTE

After arrival in Edinburgh **Sig Brownell** asked the RSM if he would post a letter he had written to his girlfriend, telling her all about Edinburgh. The RSM posted it in Sheffield when he returned that day, with the result that **Sig Brownell**, on his return, had to convince his girlfriend that he had actually been in Scotland, and not in Sheffield where the letter had been franked.

GUARD

Sgt Quantick	64	**Sig Brownell**	64
Cpl Hodges	64	**Sig Burton**	87
LCpl Medley	HQ	**Sig Kelly**	64
LCpl Hawley	64	**Sig Liddell**	93
LCpl Annable	46	**Sig Gaines**	64
LCpl Grant	64	**Cfn Hardy**	HQ

THE REAL THING!
As reported by Sgt Quantick

On 27 November 1987 I found myself travelling with 11 other members of the Regiment to Edinburgh where we were to assist 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) in providing the Castle Guard over a period of nine days.

SSgt Derek Morris greeted us at Waverley Station and took us to Redford Barracks, our home 'on and off' for the next nine days.

WO1 (RSM) May of 32 Sig Regt (V) then briefed the members of both Regiments on the training programme and duties that were to follow.

For those who have yet to visit the Castle, the ceremonial aspect of the Guard takes place between 0900 hrs and 1700 hrs. It consists of two sentries who patrol from boxes outside the main entrance of the Castle, and two posts inside and outside the entrance, who assist the SDD Policemen in crowd and traffic control. After 1700 hrs a 'Prowler' Guard is maintained.

The next three days consisted of intensive training, with a strong competitive spirit, as only eight men would be chosen for the prime ceremonial position. A lot of work was also put into preparing uniforms, greatcoats and boots.

Two guards were formed with our members making up the bulk of the second guard. Loaned to us were **Sgt Billy Lyle, Cpls Steve Switzer, Colin Stannet** and **Bobby Hamilton** from the Ulster Sqn of 32 Sig Regt (V).

On 1 December we departed for our first of four duties. The double sentries were **LCpls Grant, Hawley, Medley, Sig Burton, Kelly, Gaines, Liddel** and **Brownell. LCpl Annable** and **Cfn Hardy** were a little apprehensive until they found out how much 'posing' their jobs involved.

At 0900 hrs **Cpl Pete Hodges** mounted the first of many guards outside the Castle and from then on it was plain sailing.

WO1 (RSM) D. P. B. McLennan BEM visited us on the first day, and the second when he accompanied the CO, **Lt Col S. A. Coltman**. The CO's driver **LCpl Glen Bennett** was busy with the video camera.

We returned on one of our day's off, for a free guided tour of the Castle provided by the Chief Warden. On 9 December we bade farewell to the members of 32 Sig Regt (V) and departed for Sheffield; the lads with gifts, and stories to be told and myself with the idea of locking the workshop door and disconnecting the phone.

THE COMMONWEALTH LIAISON MISSION—KOREA

There are only two British officers in the CLM and—by one of those weird aberrations which occasionally come over the Military Secretary's Branches—both are currently Royal Signals! **Brig Tim Hackworth** has been in the Republic of Korea since June 1985 and he has now been joined by **Maj Vaughan Smedley** hot from 13 Sig Regt in Berlin.

In June 1950 the North Koreans, encouraged by the Soviet Union, came pouring across the 38th Parallel attacking the South, and Britain was one of 16 nations that responded to the United Nations' call to send troops to repel the North Korean attack. A total of 70,000 British Servicemen served in Korea between 1950 and 1955; of these 1,109 were killed and 2,583 wounded. Three years and two million lives later an Armistice was signed, hostilities ceased and both sides withdrew 2km from their last held forward positions, thus creating a belt between North and South 254km long (coast to coast) and 4km wide know as the 'Demilitarised Zone' or DMZ. DMZ is a misnomer; it is in fact one of the most militarised areas in the world since only the soldiers of either side can enter it. Over the years nature has played its part and the DMZ has become a very large game reserve!

Today, there are two major commands in Korea, both under the same Commander-in-Chief (an American 4-star General); the UN Command the function of which is to maintain the Armistice, and the Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command which has the role of deterring acts of external aggression against the Republic and, if deterrence fails, defeating an armed attack. Each Command complements the other.

The Commonwealth Liaison Mission is an integral part of UN Command. It was formed in 1957 when the Commonwealth Division was disbanded. It is very small and consists of British and Australian elements. Subordinate to the CLM is a platoon drawn from one of the battalions in Hong Kong normally, but not always, Gurkha. This platoon is one of five forming the UN Command Honour Guard. The platoon's duties are nominally ceremonial but it does a lot of other things and it benefits from the excellent training facilities available to the US Forces in Korea.

The CLM is one of the very small number of headquarters sponsored by the Chief of Defence Staff in London and its Commander is answerable directly to him. Its presence as part of UN Command gives Britain a say in what goes on, and a chance to contribute to peace and security in the region. Korea may be a long way away, but it is a potential flash point between East and West. With the world's economic and military focus changing from the NATO area to the Pacific, even cost-conscious Whitehall believes we should stay in Korea. And there is no doubt that our advice is welcomed by both the Americans and the Koreans for its objectivity; indeed, one could say that our continued presence in Korea makes the UN Command respectable and worthy of its name. But above all, the CLM flies the Union Flag as a constant reminder to both North and South Korea and to the Americans of the British Government's continuing support to, and encouragement for, the objectives of UN Command Korea.

The Commonwealth Liaison Mission is answerable to the Chief of Defence Staff,
Brig Tim Hackworth with Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse

As further evidence of UK's interest in the area, a lot of high level British visitors come to Korea and the CLM normally has to organise part or all of their tour. Over the past two years we have been visited by **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher,** innumerable Ministers, the Master General of the Ordnance **Gen Sir Richard Vincent**, the Head of Defence Export Services **Mr Colin Chandler** and, very recently, the Chief of Defence Staff **Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse** and last but not least our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**. But, so far, not the Signal Officer-in-Chief!

To this day the Commonwealth provides a permanent member of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) the job of which is to maintain the Armistice and monitor violations of the Armistice Agreement. The MAC has done this since 1953 in a series of 440 plenary meetings at which five members of UN Command—**Brig Hackworth** currently among them—sit face-to-face with five members of the Korean Peoples Army and Chinese Peoples Volunteers. A waste

of time? Emphatically not! The Armistice Agreement is the only legitimate basis for the fragile 'peace' which exists between the North and the South, and credit for maintaining this peace—on which the economic miracle of the Republic of Korea is founded—belongs to the MAC.

People posted to Korea from Britain soon find many of their pre-conceived ideas shattered. For example:-

Seoul lies on the same latitude as Madrid, but climatically they are very different; the prevailing wind in Korea is northerly and comes straight down from Mongolia and Siberia. This gives extremes of climate from +35°C in the summer to −30°C in the winter. Korea is one of the few places in the world where the British Army issues both tropical and arctic scales of clothing!

Korean war veterans will remember the countryside as being barren but **President Park Chung-Hee** put a stop to that! In the 1960s he decreed that literally billions of trees be planted. Korea is now very green and well forested.

Because Korea is to the east of Hong Kong, it is normal to think of it as being in the Far East, but the shortest distance between Seoul and London is a great circle over the North Pole and Canada. The 40,000 US Servicemen stationed in the Republic form one of the links in the chain of large American garrisons in mainland Japan, Okinawa, Korea, The Philippines and Guam which collectively protects the western approaches to the Continental United States and, indeed, forms part of America's confrontation with the Soviet Union. Both geographically and politically, therefore, Korea is part of the 'Far West'.

Korea is a volatile society; things can blow up fast and there were some nasty riots last summer but they were fairly localised and most of Seoul, a city of 10 million people (two million more than London) was barely affected. But BBC and ITV cameramen have to justify their expenses and their London editors are only interested in bad news. One well-wisher in Britain even offered last June to send us some food parcels!

Many of the places where the British Army serves are former British colonial possessions, and in most of them there is still, to a greater or lesser extent, some evidence of this. But apart from a few intrepid missionaries who reached Korea in the 1880s, there has never been a British tradition in Korea. Modern Korean culture has been influenced by Chinese, Japanese and now American traditions and values. There are thus no British street-names, colonial-type architectural treasures, pubs, or statues of Queen Victoria! Seoul changed hands four times during the Korean war and nearly all its present buildings were constructed after 1953. It is thus a very modern and clean city, but it is a concrete jungle and those who live there need frequently to get away from its unceasing traffic and frequent smog. This is recognised, and the CLM is allowed to rent a cottage on a lake about an hour's drive from Seoul, where the possession of a speed boat and water-skiing equipment provide good facilities for relaxation.

Members of the CLM at all levels work closely with the Koreans, with all our allies in United Nations Command, and particularly with the Americans. Our imprest account is run in US dollars, we are privileged to use the PX and the Commissary and many of us actually learn to speak American! It is all too easy to let words like 'momentarily' or 'sedan' or 'facility' (sleeping facility = bed, maintenance facility = workshop, washing facility = basin etc) or phrases like 'Now hear this' slip into one's vocabulary. Nowhere is this more evident than when drafting formal responses for the MAC meetings; words like 'doable', its past tense 'doneable' or worse, 'doneness' have to be quietly removed from the initial drafts without giving mortal offence to the drafters. This takes skill, tact and diplomacy. And of course 'duplex' means a semi-detached house, not simultaneous transmission in opposite directions.

Apart from the two Royal Signals officers, **Brig Hackworth** and **Maj Smedley**, the staff of the CLM currently consists of **Lt Col Peter McAuley** Royal Australian Regiment, **WO2 Alan Woods RAOC, WO2 Nigel Consterdine RAPC, Sgts Gary Valentine REME**, and **Dave Thornton RE** who runs BFPO 3, our own post office, single-handed. Everyone serves here with their families on a full tour; gone are the days when Korea was a nine-month unaccompanied tour for oddballs whom Record Offices wished to lose quietly. Several of our Korean staff have been with us a very long time; **Mr Kim Sang-Kwan, Mrs Chong Pong-Sun, Mr Moon Yun-Seung** and **Mr Kum Pong-Kyun** have all served the British for over 20 years. At the time of writing the British Honour Guard Platoon is drawn from 2nd Bn 2nd Gurkha Rifles; **Lt Peter Barton-Smith, WO2 Majam Gurung**, and **Sgt Nainabahadur Gurung**. We hope that the platoon will be found by Queen's Gurkha Signals later in the year.

The Canadians are not technically part of the Commonwealth Liaison Mission—although of course we do work closely with them—but mention must be made of their Mission Chief, **Col Bill Grant**, if only that he is a Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Officer. As it happens, **Col Grant** was the Canadian Exchange Officer with 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt in Verden 1963-64, while **Brig Hackworth** was British Exchange Officer to the Canadian Forces Signal School in Kingston, Ontario (1968-70), so they understand each other's cultural peculiarities!

The British presence in Korea may be tiny compared with 770,000 Korean and 43,000 American servicemen—but it wields an influence out of all proportion to its size. Working in the Combined and Joint Headquarters during major exercises one is almost overcome by the sheer scale of it all; the ROK Army alone consists of three Field Armies, seven Corps and twenty-one regular Divisions (totalling some 550,000 men), with another twenty-five Divisions in reserve.

Lest we are overcome with delusions of our own importance, however, all members of the CLM take part in the MAC Special Investigation Teams (SITs) which are called out at very short notice to determine the cause of any real or alleged Armistice violation; one of the UN Command rules is that an SIT must contain a least one member who is neither Korean nor American. SITs fly to the scene of any violation whether it be on land or sea; those which enter the DMZ have been known to come under fire. In any case the DMZ is liberally sprinkled with unmarked anti-personnel mines, and if neither of these get you, helicopters are still not all that reliable; last summer **Maj Smedley**'s predecessor, **Maj Simon Carr RA**, had to crash land in a paddy field! It does help to be a fatalist; and one learns the hard way that there is more to soldiering than frequency-hopping, access nodes, echo suppression and sporadic-E. At the risk of heresy, it is in places like Korea where one realises that weapons which ensure survival, such as low-level air defence missiles, are of much more importance than elaborate communications systems.

On a special Investigation Team
Col Bill Grant *(second from the right)* on a SIT after the Fishing Boat Incident 1987

The United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Pusan
Of the 2,267 graves in this Cemetery, 884 are British; of those 11 are Royal Signals

NATO Communication School
Latina
BFPO 8

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AT ANZIO

Seventy members of the staff, students and families at UK Element, NATO Communication School, Latina attended the Remembrance Sunday service held at Anzio on 8 November 1987.

The service was conducted by the **Rev Peter Blackburn. Maj (Tfc) A. J. Whydell** would be very pleased to hear from an Anzio veteran Padre who would be willing to conduct the service in 1988.

Any serving, or ex-serving members of the Corps who may be visiting Italy and would like to attend the service should also contact **Maj Whydell** as early as possible at the above address, BFPO 8.

WO1 Tom McGinnis, Sgt Phil May, Maj Tony Whydell, Sgt Rob Frape and Sgt Chris Haigh

The Commonwealth War Graves cemetery situated on the outskirts of Anzio—a lovely setting and beautifully maintained

THE VESUVIUS 'FUN' RUN 87

On 25 October **Maj Tony Whydell, WO1 McGinnis**, their wives and Chaz, joined 60 members of the UK Support Unit Naples, in the annual Fun-Run up Mount Vesuvius. The men's course was 10km and the ladies was 5km. The direction was 'up-hill' all the way. **Maj Whydell**'s comment at the painful finish was 'It's one hell of a way to get an exemption from a BFT!'. The event raised £2,000 for UK needs in Naples.

Maj Whydell

WO1 McGinnis

ARMY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS 1987/88

1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment
Back Row (L to R): WO2 (SSM) G. L. Hegarty, Sgt N. C. Bailey, LCpl N. H. Withers, Pte D. Stanley, LCpl G. Martinez, Cpl S. A. Perks and Lt Col R. A. Farrimond (CO)
Front Row (L to R): Sig S. N. Fennelly, Cpl A. G. Barker, WO2 (QMSI) A. C. T. Rodgers (Team Captain), Cpl A. M. Kennedy and Capt C. T. R. Hezlet

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS WINS ARMY (UK) CHALLENGE CUP

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS 3—SEME 1

The match took place at Aldershot on Wednesday 2 March.

Both teams started nervously which meant the ball was frequently given away. After withstanding a period of SEME pressure the School of Signals took the lead midway through the first-half with a goal by **LCpl Mick Cheetham**. This calmed the nerves and the quality of play improved. **LCpl Mike Cheetham** scored a second goal five minutes before half-time to send the School of Signals into the interval with a two goal lead.

The School of Signals started the second-half strongly and could have gone 3—0 up within five minutes of the restart but for a fine save from the SEME keeper. The School of Signals scored a third goal through **Cpl Sandy Brown** midway through the second-half to settle the game. SEME scored a consolation goal five minutes from time. This was an excellent team performance by the School of Signals.

BRITISH ARMY POSTAGE STAMP ISSUE
13 APRIL 1988
ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
CENTENARY YEAR

The Centenary Year of the Army Football Association (FA) opened on 1 January 1988.

The Army FA, through the Army Postal Services, will make a Special Cover issue on 13 April 1988 to coincide with the Centenary Cup Final. Details covering the ordering of this issue will be circulated through normal military channels.

The 'logo' of the special envelope being prepared as part of the issue will include 'a footballer in action'. **Cpl A. 'Sandy' Brown**, R Sig (School of Signals), the Army FA Team Captain, has been chosen as the Footballer subject of the logo and it is he who will appear on the cover.

The Special Cover issue will be on sale at the Army Cup Final to be played at Aldershot on 13 April 1988.

ARMY YOUTH RUGBY CUP WON BY ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE HARROGATE

ARMY YOUTH RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP

In the Army Youth Rugby Cup final Harrogate took on the Army Apprentices College Chepstow, a daunting challenge against the former winners and definite favourites, not helped by having to play away.

The day was wet and windy and it was not helped by Chepstow's domination of the front row in the scrummage. By half time the inevitable was happening and Chepstow led by 9—6. A determined effort early in the second half gave Harrogate a one point lead but five minutes from the end Chepstow smashed over the line from a maul to lead by 13 points to 10 and it looked all over but a spirited revival gave **AT Browning** the chance to power over the line. In the final minute lady luck smiled on Harrogate and Chepstow missed a kickable penalty and the final score Harrogate 14 Chepstow 13.

So we completed the double, both Football and Rugby champions.

Army Youth Rugby Cup Winners
Front Row L to R: AT LCpl Haley, JL LCpl Whitworth, AT SSM Browning (Capt), AT Sgt Millar, AT Cpl Bradley and AT LCpl Noble
Centre Row L to R: SSgt Thompson, AT Williams, AT LCpl Rubbs, AT Parr, AT Coombs, JL Ridgers, AT LCpl White, AT LCpl Bembridge, Sgt Stevenson and Lt J. W. Cooper (OIC Rugby)
Back Row L to R: AT Hayes, AT LCpl Ball, AT Cpl Clapham, JL Shaw, AT Wilson, AT Clark, AT Ceasar and JL Clark

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer warm congratulations to **Maj (Ret'd) R. J. Armstrong** on the award of the MBE (Civil Division) in the New Year Honours List. **Maj Armstrong** was employed as an RO in the appointment of SO2 Comms (Systems) at Headquarters 4 Signal Group.

PRESENTATION OF GOC(NI) COMMENDATION TO WO2 (FofS) J. MAYSON

On 15 December 1987 **WO2 (FofS) J. Mayson** was presented with the GOC (NI) Commendation by **Maj Gen R. N. Ward MBE**, GOC Western District.

John Mayson is at present serving with Electronics Branch REME in Malvern.

WO2 (FofS) J. Mayson with the GOC Western District, Maj Gen R. N. Ward and Mrs Mayson after receiving his certificate

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

RECRUITING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

1988 will be an exciting and demanding time for many in the Corps who bear extra responsibilities in recruiting and PR. While maintaining the pressure to attract potential officers, a dramatic increase in the number of adult soldiers to be recruited will be hard to achieve after years of minimal effort. In our favour, we have a much improved Area Scheme with which to increase the effectiveness of our efforts, and a number of opportunities to raise the Corps profile with the general public.

The Royal Signals Demonstration Team has been enhanced by the move of the Blue Helmets Freefall Parachute Display Team from Blandford to Catterick, and their programme for 1988 is rapidly filling. The BBC2 film of the White Helmets 1986 selection course was shown in the North East of England in October 1987, and is likely to go 'nationwide' some time soon. The White Helmets will be providing the Royal Signals contribution to a BBC TV series on 'Customs and Traditions in the Army', but since the filming is not until August, release is some way off.

1988 could well be the busiest year ever for Regimental Information Teams (RIT) and KAPE Teams. Their programmes are still being co-ordinated so will be published in future issues, but the outline for KAPE tours in 1988 is:-

- 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in NE Dist 25 Apr-6 May
- 16 Sig Regt in E Dist 2-17 June
- 16 Sig Regt in E Dist 2-17 June
- 28 Sig Regt in W Dist 13 June-4 July
- 2 Sig Bde (243 Sig Sqn) in SW Dist 1-15 July
- 7 Sig Regt in Wales 16-30 September
- 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in NW Dist 10-23 October

SOLDIER RECRUITING

RECRUITING PROSPECTS

With the Corps adult trained strength running at a slight surplus, the Corps was allocated a total of only 227 adult recruits of all trades in the year 1987/88. With the exception of the EWOp, which remains a problem, the recruiting organisation has had little trouble in filling these few vacancies. The apprentice and junior intakes have also been fully subscribed.

The predictions for 1988/89 are less rosy and the indications are that we shall have to fight harder for a share of the market without lowering entrance standards. Added to this, the adult recruit requirement will be at least 600 this year.

SPECIAL RECRUITERS

After a period of some years without a high Royal Signals profile in Army Careers Information Offices, the Corps has decided that now is the time to deploy a number of Special Recruiters throughout the UK. The proposal is to place six representatives in the traditionally better Royal Signals recruiting areas. These recruiters should if possible come from the area themselves, and be members of the unit responsible in the area recruiting scheme.

SATISFIED SOLDIERS/APPRENTICES/JUNIORS

The role of the Satisfied Soldier/Apprentice/Junior in recruiting is probably more valuable now than it ever has been. Many schools today are out of bounds to traditional recruiting teams, but the old boy can usually return to his school, youth club or ACF/CCF unit where he will be able to talk to young people who remember him and identify with him. The main thrust of the project this year will be the return of Juniors, Apprentices and Recruits to their enlisting ACIOs for a week, on completion of training, but any nominated satisfied soldiers during their first tours with units will be welcomed.

OFFICER RECRUITING

In 1987, only 42 young officers were commissioned into Royal Signals, against our target of 48; 1988 may well be about the same. While this cannot be described as success, there has been a not less than 10% drop in the pool of those suitable for consideration since 1983. Indications are that much more effort is needed to achieve the target. The Master of Signals' initiative in writing to all retired officers produced 38 potential officer contacts and many offers of practical help.

The Royal Signals National University Officers Training Corps Competition will be held at the School of Signals on Sunday 19 March. The competition is a very welcome opportunity to allow undergraduates to meet Corps soldiers and officers and to learn more of our role. Many CCF cadets will be in similar positions at their central camps, all of which will be supported by Royal Signals Training Teams.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS APRIL—JULY 1988

Date	*Event/Location*	*Recruiting team or unit*
April		
2-4	Gloucester County Show	Quicksilver
23-25	Teesdale County Fair	Quicksilver
30-2 May	Peterborough Truck Festival	Quicksilver
May		
13-15	Richmond Rotary Club Show	Quicksilver
14	Stoke Goldington Steam Rally	White Helmets
21	High Wycombe Royal Grammar School	White Helmets
21	13 Sig Regt Open Day	Blue Helmets
28-30	Southend Air Show	Quicksilver/ Blue Helmets
30	Hull Childrens Home	Blue Helmets
30	Melton Mowbray Show	White Helmets
31	Wetherby Show	Blue Helmets
31-5 Jun	Royal Show, Bath	Quicksilver
June		
1-6	Northern Ireland Tour	Band
4-5	TV South Air Show, Bournemouth	White Helmets
8-11	South of England Show—Ardingly	Quicksilver
11-13	SSAFA Air Display—RAF Church Fenton	Quicksilver
11	Addlestone Carnival	White Helmets
12	Romford Show	White Helmets
13-17	North West District Tour	Band
17-19	Codnor Show	Quicksilver/ Blue Helmets
18-19	Immingham Show	Blue Helmets
21-24	Lincoln Show	Quicksilver
24-26	Sci-Tech Exhibition, Brands Hatch	30 Sig Regt RIT/ White Helmets
23-24	Lord Mayors Festival and Parade York	Quicksilver
25-26	North Yorkshire Show	Blue Helmets
28-1 July	Army Exhibition for Schools	Quicksilver
30-2 July	Light Division Tattoo	White Helmets
July		
2	Redcar British Steel Gala	Blue Helmets
3	Bromyard Gala—Hereford	White Helmets
3-8	Armada Celebration, Plymouth	Quicksilver
4	Colchester Fete	Blue Helmets
9-10	Pudsey Show	White Helmets
9	Bexley Show	White Helmets/ Blue Helmets
9	Hillingdon Carnival	Band
10-16	Torbay Carnival	Quicksilver
12-14	The Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate	White Helmets
16-17	Middle Wallop International Air Tattoo	White Helmets
16-24	Butlins Minehead	Quicksilver
21	Yeovil Show	White Helmets
23-24	Battle of Naseby Celebrations, Northampton	Blue Helmets
24-29	Barry Carnival	Quicksilver
25	Hickstead Show Jumping	Band
26-30	Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle	White Helmets
27-30 Aug	Canada Tour	Band
30	Kohima Day, York	White Helmets
31	South Shields Mardi Gras	White Helmets

THE XIXABANGMA EXPEDITION—CLIMBING IN CHINA

A report by Lt J. Vlasto

During September/October 1987 a joint British Army/civilian expedition attempted to climb the unclimbed east face of Xixabangma (8,027m), the highest mountain in China and the thirteenth highest in the world. I was lucky enough to take part in this expedition, and this is an account of my involvement in it.

PREPARATION

My Troop Commanders Course in Blandford finished in July 1987. The next day I reported for duty in Cambridge to **Lt Col Henry Day RE**, the expedition leader. For the next two months I was to be kept fully occupied. The expedition consisted of some 30 members—about 16 climbers, 8 scientists and 6 support party (including **Col John Blashford-Snell**). This was my first time on such a large expedition (the biggest I had been on previously having just four members) and the amount of preparation required was a source of constant amazement to me.

TO THE MOUNTAIN

We flew from Heathrow on Sunday 6 September. We arrived in Kathmandu to discover that all the freight was stuck in Kathmandu customs, except for the gas canisters which, being dangerous cargo, were stuck in Delhi. The initial plan was to spend three weeks in Nepal trekking to get fit and to get acclimatised as our base camp on Xixabangma was to be at 5,000m. We were to trek into a fairly remote area, and thus we split into two parties so as not to impose too great a strain on local resources. I was in the first party which set off on the trek after just one day in Kathmandu, leaving the second party to sort out the freight problem. This of course had the disadvantage that we had none of the trekking equipment that we had brought with us such as tents and, most important during the monsoon, umbrellas. As it turned out the negotiations with Kathmandu customs were prolonged and the second party also had to do without most of this equipment, leaving the redoubtable **John House** and **Jim Kimber** to deal with the customs men. This they did with great success, meeting us at the border crossing into China after the trek with all the equipment, less the gas, and with 180 porters. The gas, as far as I know, is still in Delhi. We replaced what we could by buying every canister we could find in Kathmandu.

The trek started with a bus journey along the road leading to Friendship Bridge, the crossing point into China. But some way before the border we got off the bus and set off into the hills. The first days walk was fairly gentle and very pleasant, bringing back memories of my first visit to Nepal two years previously. Unfortunately the next day **Lindsay Griffin**, who had broken his leg very badly the previous winter in the Apls, decided he was not yet strong enought to go on and that he would meet us along with **John** and **Jim** after the trek at the Chinese border. The trek then started climbing steeply and this brought us into the leech zone. It also started raining and we wished we had our umbrellas with us, not only to keep off the rain, but also the leeches which have an unpleasant habit of falling on to you from the trees. Still, much sport was had dissolving leeches in various leech removing solutions and burning them with cigarettes and lighters.

Nonetheless it was with some relief that we emerged from the leech zone three or four days later and began to get views of the mountains. After about eight days trekking we reached a very picturesque lake where we left our porters and set off on a two day trip to get as high as we could. We reached a small rocky summit (feeling distinctly breathless) just below the snowline at about 4,700m, 100m below the height of Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the Alps. The only exception to this was **Brian Davison** who, on his own and in trainers, climbed a decidedly snow covered peak of over 5,000m. On returning to the lake we came across the second trekking party and spent the evening swapping exaggerated leech stories. The next day we set off down for the border whilst the other party continued on upwards. The only event of note on our descent was the expedition leader leading half our trekking party astray and consequently having to re-ascend a good 500m through the jungle—conversation was terse that evening.

Despite this setback we reached the end of the trek in good order the following day. The trek ended in the village of Tatopani a few kilometres from the border, a foul smelling, flea ridden and thoroughly unpleasant place whose one redeeming feature was not springs (as any linguists might have guessed). Here we met up with **Lindsay, John, Jim** and the 180 porters who were to carry all our equipment over the landslides that blocked the road into China. Apparently the recruiting of these porters had led to a full scale riot as there was great competition to work for the expedition since we were paying double rates for one very long day's carry. The porters had taken to hurling rocks at each other and anything else that came to hand in their enthusiasm to get to the front of the crowd that had gathered seeking employment, and **John, Jim** and **Lindsey** had had to run for cover. They had come through this ordeal unscathed, however, and with the arrival of the second trekking party the next day we were now all ready to cross into China and into the mysterious land of Tibet.

Everything went smoothly until we reached the Chinese customs post. Here the customs officials wanted to charge us hundreds of dollars duty on our equipment, but we had just finished changing all our dollars into yuan, the Chinese currency. They would not accept yuan instead of dollars until they had checked with the bank on the exchange rate. The bank had by now closed for an extended lunch break and would not be open for another three hours. This was my first encounter with Chinese bureaucrats, but one that proved to be typical. 180 porters were thus left sitting idle. When it was discovered that we also had insufficient Nepalese rupees to pay off all the porters and some of them would have to be paid in yuan we almost had another riot on our hands. Eventually, however, all these problems were cleared up and we were on our way again. An hour's walk brought us to the end of the landslides where we were met by two Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) trucks. It was only later that we learnt that the strange smell at this point emanated from the body of a dead roadworker under a tarpaulin at the side of the road. We transferred all our equipment from the porters on to the trucks and were off again. Two hour's drive up a most spectacular road cut into the vertiginous hillsides brought us to the Tibetan village of Nyalam. I have only been to one place less pleasant than Tatopani, and Nyalam is it. It was cold, dirty and normally windy, the people were unfriendly and the only food available was boiled rice and vegetables. The first night however we were treated to a banquet in the Chinese hotel by the CMA (consisting of boiled rice and vegetables) after which we erected our tents and established the first camp of the expedition.

TO THE SUMMIT?

The next day we started load carrying. It was two days carry up to Base Camp, and half way we had an Intermediate Camp. On the first day's carry to this camp a small group of us got lost and so got off to an exhausting start. After a second day's carry I moved up to stay at the Intermediate Camp, and after one carry up from there I moved up to stay at Base Camp at an altitude of just under 5,000m. The next day I was breathless, but was the only one who felt able to accompany **Steve Venables**, the strongest and most experienced mountaineer on the trip, on a reconnaissance along the moraine and on to the glacier looking for a site for Advance Base Camp. By the time we returned that evening I felt the same as everybody else, with a headache, loss of appetite and all the other symptons of acute mountain sickness. The weather during these early days was poor with cloud completely obscuring the mountain, but the following evening a gap appeared in the cloud revealing, seemingly impossibly high in the sky, a steep ice streaked rock face. The day after dawned clear and it became apparent that what we had glimpsed was the south face of the unclimbed Nynang Ri (7,100m), a subsidiary summit of Xixabangma. A walk up the moraine towards Advance Base revealed the east face of Xixabangma itself which we had come to climb. It looked very dangerous with ice cliffs near the top which frequently broke off and swept down the face. We could see now why it had not been climbed before. It was decided there and then that there was no feasible route up this face. Instead we thought we might split into smaller groups and climb some of the many other peaks around, such as the very fine Nynang Ri. However, **Henry Day**, when he arrived at Base Camp (having been delayed by the inevitable difficulties with yak herders), was very clear that we had permission from the Chinese to climb Xixabangma from the east, and that that is what we would do. If the east face direct was too dangerous then we would climb a less direct route, and this is what we now set about doing.

Those who were arriving at Base Camp from the Camp at Nyalam at this time brought amazing tales of yaks and yak herders. In Tibet porters are difficult to get hold of and instead one uses yaks which can be thought of as hairy load carrying cows. The yak drivers (ie local Tibetan yak herdsmen) are notoriously unreliable and for days they had assured us that the only yaks available were a handful of sickly looking beasts. Eventually in desperation two members of the expedition disappeared off into the hills one morning and returned that evening with every yak they had been able to find, somewhere in the region of 100. From then on yak loads did begin to appear at Base Camp, although the yak drivers continued to create problems.

Xixabangma—East face

Yak at Base Camp

The yaks could not get far beyond Base Camp and so from there on all loads had to be carried by expedition members. The next three weeks were thus spent carrying loads and establishing ever higher camps. This was very tedious and demoralising work. The camps were established one days load carry apart and were located as follows: Advance Base was on the glacier at 5,200m below a large icefall, Camp One was at 5,750m just above this icefall and Camp Two was at the end of a snowshelf at 6,150m, right beneath a 600m snow face. Climbing on this 45 degree face proved to be exhausting not only because of the altitude but also because of the intense reflection of sunlight from the snow. **Brian Davison** spent a day fixing rope up this face with me carrying the equipment and holding his ropes. The next day I wanted to rest, but **Brian** had to dig a 2m pit in the snow for some obscure scientific reason. This was to be done at Camp Two at 6,150m, and the reflected sunlight in the pit was even worse than it was on the face. I took a brief turn at digging this pit and quickly realised that I did not have the resilience and stamina apparently necessary to be a scientist. The following day **Brian** set off to drill holes in a glacier, whilst I with some relief returned to the face. After a second day on the face, however, I ran out of energy and went back down to Base Camp for a rest.

On my arrival there I discovered that the main scientific party, which had been round on the North of the mountain, had now come up to join us at Base Camp. This was soon after Lhasa (the capital city of Tibet) had hit world headlines for the Chinese suppression of rioting monks, and the scientists whilst at Nyalam had been told by the Chinese police that they were unwelcome foreigners. Fortunately we were an officially authorised and approved expedition and so could not easily be forced to leave. The scientists had also had some of their equipment stolen by a roaming band of Tibetan nomads. Undaunted by these events, however, three of them set off the next day on **Brian Davison**'s hole drilling escapade. Also that day **Steve Venables** and **Jerry Gore**, an ex-Royal Marine, reached the top of the snow face and established Camp Three, a snow cave, at 6,900m on the ridge leading to Pungpa Ri (7,486m), another subsidiary summit of Xixabangma and connected to it by a further 2km of ridge. We were now all set for first summit bid with four climbers (with oxygen) at Camp Two poised ready to go.

It was at this moment that we were hit by a storm that halted practically every expedition in the Himalayas. Three feet of snow fell at Base Camp and this was blown into drifts by the wind. Many of the tents collapsed and those that remained had frequently to be dug out. Our makeshift mess tent needed considerable reinforcement, and to add to the discomfort only two of our stoves were working. It was during the two days that this storm kept us confined to camp that **John Blashford-Snell** showed how he has earned his reputation. He kept us entertained with very implausible but highly amusing anecdotes from his previous expeditions, and was the first to undertake any unpleasant job that needed doing. The higher camps, however, were in a more serious predicament than we at Base Camp. At Camp Two, for example, 10ft of snow fell. **Nigel Williams** (until recently Chief Instructor at BOBC Norway) decided that the original site of Camp Two was too close to the snow face for safety, and so in blizzard conditions moved the tents some 200m away and made a pile of all the remaining equipment in the original location which he marked with a bamboo pole. It is as well that he moved the tents as the equipment was buried under at least 20ft of snow that was continously sliding off the face, and despite extensive probing this equipment was never relocated. At Advance Base **John** and **Jim**'s tent was completely buried, and at 0400 hrs one morning, fearing the tent's collapse, they abandoned the tent, dug their way to the surface and in fine military fashion dug themselves a trench in which they passed the remainder of the night. Meanwhile **Lindsay Griffin** (who was doing more than his fair share of the work despite the fact that his leg was still far from fully recovered) had decided to get off the mountain whilst this was still possible, and was bringing a couple of others with him. They had an epic journey back to Base Camp forging a route through waist deep snow in white out conditions, taking a day and a half to cover one stretch across the glacier that normally took only an hour and a half.

The third day dawned clear, and so **Luke Hughes (Steve Venables'**s climbing partner) and I set off to make a trail for **Lindsay'**s team to follow on the final section of the route to Base Camp. Just as we were setting out **Brian Davison** staggered into view and collapsed in the snow. He had spent the previous night out with no bivouac gear sleeping in a hollow between two boulders. When he awoke the snow had drifted 12ft deep above his head and it had taken him over an hour to dig himself out with his hands. Had he been unable to get himself out no-one would have known where to look for him. He told us that somewhere behind him the three other scientists who had been on the glacier with him were also trying to get back down to Base Camp. This was worrying news as none of these three had any mountain experience. We came across them only about 45 minutes away. One of them was starting to do down with exposure, but otherwise they were alright. After giving them some coffee from our thermos we sent them on their way and continued on up to meet **Lindsay**'s team. When we met them they were weak but going OK. In addition to coffee we had snowshoes for them which made progress through the deep snow very much easier. That evening in Base Camp we were conscious of the fact that although everyone had so far come through the storm unscathed this had very nearly not been the case. The following evening the four from Camp Two also made it safely back to Base Camp.

AFTER THE STORM

Camps One and Two were now completely buried along with all their equipment, food and gas, and all that remained of Advance Base was a tunnel down to one tent 5ft under the snow. The entire route was under several feet of snow, and it seemed likely that the ropes which had been fixed to the face above Camp Two would have been damaged. There were mixed feelings about what chance we now had on the mountain, but **Steve Venables** and **Luke Hughes** settled any possible argument by setting off themselves to re-establish the route. **Kate Phillips** and I went in support. Three days of extremely hard work brought us back up to Camp Two. At this point **Steve** and **Luke** decided to take almost all the food and gas we had managed to salvage and make a bid for the summit. They planned to reach the Snow Cave the next day and then to bivouac on the col between Pungpa Ri and Xixabangma the day after, climb to the summit and return to the col on the third day and on the fourth day return to the Snow Cave or possibly Camp Two. They had just enough gas to do this. **Kate** and I meanwhile returned to Camp One to collect more gas and then climbed the face (the ropes were in fact undamaged) to the Snow Cave. From the Snow Cave we hoped to be able to climb Pungpa Ri and return in a day. We were not planning to climb Xixabangma itself as there were weather reports of another big storm coming in, and in any case neither of us had any experience of climbing at these altitudes.

So it was that the next day we set out before dawn with minimal equipment. Unfortunately one effect of altitude is loss of appetite and so neither of us had had much to eat. We were thus making very slow but nonetheless steady progress when suddenly **Kate**'s headtorch

Computer at Base Camp

Xixabangma from Pungpa Ri

Lt Vlasto at Base Camp

Lt Vlasto on Pungpa Ri

failed. The batteries seemed to be lasting a very short time in the cold and we had already used our two spares. There was nothing for it but to continue with one headtorch between us. We then came across a short stretch of fairly steep ice smeared rock from which a fall looked decidedly undesirable. We were not prepared to go on unroped, and with only one torch between us and little chance of good belays we could not go on roped either. If we just waited where we were until dawn we stood a good chance of getting frostbitten and so we looked for a way round the obstacle. When this too proved fruitless, by which time we were both feeling distinctly weak, we judged that we stood little chance of reaching the summit that day and so returned to the Snow Cave, arriving just in time for a most spectacular sunrise over the distant panorama of Everest, Cho Oyu and many others of the world's highest peaks. Later that day **Kate**, unable to keep any food down, made her way back down to Camp Two.

I then spent a most unpleasant 24 hours on my own in the Snow Cave feeling the effects of altitude and continually struggling to eat without vomiting, an art which I found took some mastering. I was joined the next day by **Nigel Williams** who came up the face very fast and arrived exhausted, hardly able to speak. Some hours and several brews later, however, he was feeling almost as good as I was. Radio communication with **Steve** and **Luke** had been lost soon after their departure from Camp Two four days earlier (more battery problems), and when they did not return to the Snow Cave that evening we realised that we would have to go out and look for them the following morning as they were now overdue.

I had by this time spent three days at almost 7,000m eating very little, and **Nigel** had just arrived after an extremely tiring day and had not yet had a chance to acclimatise. It was thus a poorly motivated team that set off next morning, at first light as we no longer had any headtorch batteries at all. But this time we got over the steep rock with no difficulty and soon found ourselves on the crest of the ridge, in places quite exposed, that led to Pungpa Ri. The climbing was very hard work and we were beginning to get seriously worried about **Steve** and **Luke** when after about three hours we spotted them, with some relief, coming down the ridge towards us. It turned out that they had made slower progress than they had hoped and they had spent the previous night in a snow cave about 200m below the summit of Xixabangma. That morning with no gas (and consequently no water) and with no-one in a position to help them out of any possible difficulties so near the summit they had made the difficult decision not to risk a summit bid and to come down instead. **Luke** also had frostbitten fingers, but they were otherwise alright and capable of getting themselves down and so **Nigel** and I decided to push on to the summit of Pungpa Ri. It is interesting that after the months of preparation and hard work the effects of altitude were such that both **Nigel** and I seriously contemplated not bothering going on to the summit, which was only a couple of hours away, and instead just going down with **Luke** and **Steve**. However, we did go on, reaching the 7,486m summit shortly before 1300 hrs. 1300 hrs was a regular radio call time and we spoke to Base Camp 2½km vertically below us, and much further horizontally) with no trouble at all. The weather was beautiful, the views magnificent, the photography rather cold on the fingers. We remained on the summit for about half an hour. There was no feeling of triumph, just relief that we could go down now.

RETURN JOURNEY

We were both very tired and it took a constant effort to maintain concentration on the way down. The snow was soft and in many places a slip would have been difficult to control, but eventually we reached the Snow Cave where we had a quick brew before abseiling down the face to Camp Two. The next day we returned to Base Camp; for the final hour of this day I felt more drained than at any other stage on the expedition. But then, on reaching Base Camp, **Steve** announced his intention of going back up again as soon as possible for a final attempt on the main summit, and I immediately said I would like to go with him. Unfortunately, however, there was hardly sufficient gas left for two to go up, and in any case I could not realistically hope to keep up with **Steve**. There was also the small matter of my flight back to England which I would miss if I went back up. So it was that I joined the main party that was returning to civilisation leaving **Henry, Steve** and the youngest climber on the trip, **Al**, to climb Xixabangma. Due to the deep snow at Base Camp there was no chance of getting yaks up, and so we carried out what we could on our backs. At this time the Chinese were trying to get foreigners out of Tibet, and when we reached Nyalam we discovered that the CMA were not prepared to allow another summit bid after the period for which we had Xixabangma booked. **Henry, Steve** and **Al** thus had

to come down as well. We also found that more of the road had slipped away and so we faced a further 30km walk back into Nepal. It was whilst I was looking for porters for this in the Tibetan part of town that I was turned on by a pack of dogs and got bitten. I have been on a course of injections ever since—an apt reminder of the delights of Nyalam. But I did succeed in finding two Tibetan porters, one of whom I personally escorted all the way into Nepal, the other disappeared without trace. I hope he has found the box of scientific instruments he took with him useful.

Eventually, however, we succeeded in getting ourselves and most of the equipment we had managed to bring with us from Base Camp back over the border into Nepal, and from there a final day's journey took us to Kathmandu. I had just two days left before my flight back to England, and after two months on military rations I spent this eating, with predictable consequences. I arrived back in England late on Tuesday 10 November to find that I was due to fly out to Germany to join 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt that Sunday.

The expedition did not achieve its mountaineering objective. It also did not achieve many of its scientific objectives. Nonetheless from my point of view it was an enormous success and a wonderful experience only available to a few. Taking part in a trip such as this is extremely rewarding and worthwhile, and I am most grateful for having been given the opportunity. In particular many thanks to all those who helped and encouraged me both whilst I was seeking selection and whilst I was at Blandford; to Corps Funds for the very generous contribution towards my costs, and to the Royal Corps of Signals for allowing me to go.

CARIBBEAN VENTURE LEG 3

Skipper: **Sgt Alan Morgan** RSYC Bosun
Mate: **Capt Bob Etherton** AA Coll Harrogate
Crew: **Cpl Kevin Johnson** 204 Sig Sqn
LCpl David Griffiths R Signals (V)
LCpl Julian Boal REME 8 Inf Bde
WPte Diane Berwick 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
WPte Mickey Montgomery 16 Sig Regt
WPte Tracey Lissemore 16 Sig Regt
Malley—Ship's Cat

THE MATE'S MEMORY LOG

BACKGROUND

Ex Caribbean Venture is a Corps off shore adventurous sail training exercise. It involved 71 Royal Signals personnel, regular, TA and WRAC, and one REME soldier, sailing the chartered yacht *Firebird* a 36ft High Tension Sloop from Gosport to the Caribbean and back; via Gibraltar, The Canary Islands outward, and Bermuda and the Azores homeward. The expedition is divided into 10 legs mostly of two to three weeks duration with the Atlantic crossing legs, four and nine, being of four and five weeks duration respectively. The exercise started on 5 October 1987 and is scheduled to finish at Gosport on 24 April 1988—fair winds and God willing!

LEG'S ONE AND TWO—A RESUMÉ

The crew of leg one were to sail *Firebird* to Gibraltar and the crew of leg two enjoy a warmer sail to the Canaries via Tangier and Madeira. Not to be—it took these two crews three weeks and two days to make Gibraltar, battling with the same S W'ly near hurricane force winds that devastated the south of England. The crew change over took place in La Coruna in Spain. The 'Fair Log' reads well for this period and deserves its own space in a later publication to paint an accurate and exciting picture for the reader. The skipper, **Sgt Alan Morgan** and a mainly novice crew receive our praise and congratulations for their efforts during this period. One quote from the Fair Log at the start;—Skipper introducing the crew to the sail locker. 'This is the storm jib and this the try-sail; we won't be needing either'!

I think most of leg three crew which cover the period from 1 to 16 November chose this one because the pre-exercise publicity listed it as 'Canaries Cruise', and of course the imagination works overtime with the promise of sandy beaches, warm seas, sunshine and the more inaccessible shore line beauty spots that are enjoyed only by those with a boat. The islands are within a days sailing of each other; given the right winds, so generally nights could be spent either in port painting the town with pesetas, or at anchor in some remote bay gazing at heavenly bodies among the constellations or Scandinavian tourists.

Some of this would all come true; but leg three got jolted into realism about a week before departure. Our main task was to get *Firebird* back on schedule for the Atlantic crossing. As luck would have it, I was in Gosport aboard *Quicksilver* that week; learning to tie bowlines and how to be sea sick with dignity, so I took a day ashore and collected the necessary change of flight details from the exercise project officer, **Maj John Barnett** at the School of Signals! He gleefully related an account of his experiences on leg one and salty tales of mountainous seas, winds gusting 80 knots off the clock and hove-to nearly flat in the water off Guernsey with no more sail up than a Kleenex tissue!

Sunday 1 November; Gatwick Airport and an unsociable reporting time of midnight and an even less sociable departure time of 0350 hrs. Surprise! The whole crew report in. Not a soul adrift and none too concerned about the adventures ahead given that two had never sailed before. The aircraft was only a third full; which was no wonder at that time of the morning, so we enjoyed a comfortable flight and a good breakfast.

Gibraltarian passport and customs officials grinned and nodded wisely as we file past with nothing to declare. A few of the crew had been here before and knew the way to Marina Bay where *Firebird* is berthed. A brisk walk across the runway and past the aged Vulcan bomber gave us an opportunity to take in some of the environment and stretch our legs; the last bit of distance exercise we were to have for the next six days. The Skipper met the new crew with handshakes and introductions. He is 6ft 4in tall and I registered this fact should we require to erect a jury rig if the mast fell off. On board and a briefing about the passage. After a brew of tea we stowed our kit and spent the rest of the morning becoming familiar with *Firebird*. Sails and sheets and halyards and winches and running rigging and heads and hatches; port watch, starboard watch and mother watch. Heads (ours!) buzzing with nautical terms, we have lunch ashore then assisted the purser, **LCpl David Griffiths** to victual the yacht with a lot of canned food, four cases of Woods rum and the odd can of beer. The weather looked favourable but in the event was only a local easterly and we were set to sail in the morning in anything short of a bad blow. The crew enjoyed a good run ashore. A very pleasant surprise for myself as I ran into some old friends, **Maj (Ret'd) Mike Crane** and his family who live aboard their yacht, *Song of Freedom* which he built in his back garden in Ouston when the Junior Regiment was stationed there. A super evening but I found the pontoon was pitching wildly as I made my way back to *Firebird*. I trod on Malley (the cat) who lives in the cockpit but managed to find the starboard quarter berth which was to be my bunk for the next two weeks.

Tuesday 3rd, warm but overcast, we attended to last minute details and prepared for sea. At about 1030 hrs we slipped the marina and under engine made for the customs quay to clear.

Oh! Five minutes later the engine over-heated. What a good start—still 100m from the quay the skipper energetically sculled the tiller and our REME 'engineer' removed the cockpit decking to inspect a very hot engine. Mate organised fenders both sides as *Firebird* drifted helplessly, but there was nothing too close to bump into and we made the quay and tied-up. We did the necessary business at Customs and sorted out the cooling system (inlet valve not fully open) and then we were off into the bay and heading for the Straits of Gibraltar. Sail up, engine off, and we were winning. This is what it's all about, and to underline the fact, we were joined by four dolphins who stayed with us until we reached the Straits. It got a bit bumpy. Our first casualty; sea sickness, **Pte Mickey Montgomery** is embarrassed that it has overtaken her as her father is Master of a large merchant ship!

Tangier, then we sighted the NW tip of Africa astern before altering course more southerly. The wind is still SW'ly and as the port watch came on at 0400 hrs on Wednesday we were still motoring with 'George' at the helm. 'Able Seaman George' is an electronic auto helm. He does not require feeding, watering or a share of the Woods. He copes quite happily with all points of sailing up to a force six. He cannot make a decision to alter course, or avoid ships; neither can he change sail, make a brew or pump the bilge. So there are jobs for the crew after all!

Night sailing in the main shipping lanes and areas is an education in determining a ship's course and speed by its lights. One main rule applies; if in doubt and it's getting close, call the Skipper. Wednesday and Thursday the 4th and 5th were days of mixed winds, none of which were very favourable, apart from a few hours during the late evening of Wednesday when a good NE'ly blew up and, after reaching for a while, we were able to put the pole out and goose-wing into the early hours on our desired course of 240°. We were running at last with an average hourly log of some seven knots. Those on watch broke open the Woods and celebrated with hot grog. However, the early hours of Thursday snatched away all winds and after going round in circles and losing steerage way we pulled down the sails and on went the motor. Becalmed! A lazy day for all. 'George' doing his thing at the helm while the crew sunbathed, washed and tidied up. Everyone had their sea-legs now which was a relief to all and especially to **Pte Diane Berwick**. A breeze in the late afternoon and we got under way and a Russian ship passed close by, north bound. The Skippers communicated with each other and we obtained a weather report. A low depression over the Canaries moving NE, winds maximum six-seven. We would really rather not have known! It looked like another bumpy beat and this was the case as we up sail as the wind increased and are on course 180°. Too close to the African coast really but we had no alternative. Our hourly barometer readings confirmed that we are on the easterly edge of the depression as they are fairly stable. The Skipper shook his head; convinced the weather pattern has gone crazy and the winds all over the place. Thursday night was a mixture of sailing and motoring with good seas and a full moon. The further south we got, the warmer it became and one noticed that any work on deck with full oilskins meant a healthy sweat and a free sauna!

A word about navigation. In earlier days the navigator took sights of sun, moon and stars, consulted his Godfrey and Siddons logarithmic tables, a nautical almanac, a piece of dried seaweed and the Mate's socks; then proclaimed he knew where he was on the chart by making a pencil mark on it. When per chance land was sighted he took a quick fix with the Compass (and another with the Woods), adjusted his previous work on the chart with an eraser and again proclaimed that he knew where he was all the time and what's wrong with Australia!, it's quite close to New Zealand anyway! Not so these days. An electronic black box with buttons on it designed to be pressed and a little screen that shows your position in Long and Lat to seconds of arc. Also it gives you the time, where you have been and also where you should be going. All the navigator has to do is sharpen his pencil and press the buttons and transfer the given information on to the chart. But be warned! Use the wrong finger to press with, and you have failed!

Friday the 6th and a healthy blow from the SW. Beating again on 180° under a clear blue sky and a deep blue sea with a good chop and white tops. The decks got a good wash and the cockpit the odd soaking. Nobody minded as it was warm. **Cpl Kevin Johnson** at the helm with a big grin on his face, bounced me around on the deck as we changed down to the heavy weather jib and put three reefs in the main. It was good sailing and the most enjoyable so far. Mid afternoon we sighted the *Canberra* and spoke to her duty watch officer over the VHF. We got a weather up-date. The low was still moving NE but the outlook was better. As a point of interest *Canberra* had lost a man over-board. A steward who was in the water some one and a half hours before *Canberra* picked him up. A really excellent bit of navigation by her skipper. It happened not far from Madeira so the sea was warm which was a help.

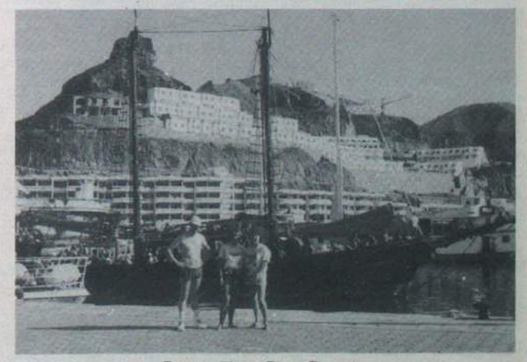
We needed to head more Westerly, so on Friday evening we altered course to about 270° and motored into the night with just the main up to provide stability in a lumpy sea. An overcast night with a low cloud base but a bright full moon gave a glow in the blackness. A few rain showers. Near dawn we sighted a ship on the bow heading directly at us and getting very close, but she changed course and avoided us. The Skipper looked at the flag! The wind had shifted! We got the head sail up and on to a broad reach, cut the engine, and were cracking on with a NE'ly behind us. It stayed so on Saturday we made excellent progress with a long swell running and the crew enjoyed the warm sunshine and good sailing. It was **Pte Tracey Lissemore**'s 20th birthday. The Skipper would not allow her to be thrown into the oggin although we promised to tie a rope to her feet! But she did get a good wash from the briny. I was on Mother watch and decided to prepare rice pudding and rum custard for pudding; everyone liked the idea. In the event only the Skipper, Malley and myself liked the custard, so it's a case of waste-not, want-not. The level in the Woods bottle went down!

Lanzarote was first seen by the Skipper—so he says!, although the crew could not see anything until about 1100 hrs. The island seemed to draw *Firebird* like a magnet. We set the blooper and increased speed by half a knot. We took turns at the helm ('George' being banished below!) to see who could obtain the fastest surf. **LCpl Julian Boal** became top helm clocking up 11.2 knots. In no time at all Isla de Alegranza passed to starboard and we saw the white main and blue spinnaker of *Lady Rose* against the backdrop of Roque del Este as we came level with Punta Fariones; the northern tip of Lanzarote. I took fixes to plot our course down the coast. So many mountains, but few marked on the chart and it was a good number of miles down the coast before we pinpointed our position and I gave the Skipper an ETA. Sail down, engine on and five days and three hours after we rounded the customs quay in Gibraltar, we moored alongside *Gismo* of Southampton in Arrecife harbour. Not bad! *Gismo* had set sail from Gibraltar on Saturday 31 October and had only arrived that morning after a bad blow en route. Who said we did not have fair winds?

We cleaned the boat and ourselves. The girls manage to sweet talk their way to enough fresh water for them to wash their hair. After a good meal on board and a few celebratory drinks, we go ashore. It was Sunday evening, and it seemed that the whole population of Arrecife is out promenading and buying delicious sticky cakes and buns. I too indulged, and later on enjoyed the local beer and a plate of hot garlic shrimps.

Monday morning. We need fresh water before we sail. I asked around; yes a man does come with a bowser but he is unreliable. Trainers on to jog some 4km to the next port where I ask an Englishman on a Dutch yacht if he knows where I can obtain fresh water. Try the harbour master! Good idea. I jogged back to face a man with much gold braid and more badges than a Rover scout. He obviously knew how to obtain the water but is unable to converse with me because I do not speak Spanish and he cannot speak English! Try the police! Here we make progress, and armed with a piece of paper I jogged back the other way some 8km to Puerto El Majo and the local desalination plant. I attached myself to an aged bowser operator and after promising to take at least 1,000 litres of his water, he agreed to deliver to our yacht. I travelled back with him, in what must have been his father's bowser, to the harbour. The next hour was a comedy of errors as we tried to fill all available tanks and containers with water from the bowser with a valve from the *Queen Mary* and nothing smaller than a 4in bore hose. The Skipper used unfamiliar language as the main cabin became flooded with more than our fair share of the 1,000 litres. *Gismo* topped up her fresh water tanks and some West German water gypsies availed themselves of this unexpected windfall; or should it be waterfall? The bowser operator wanted more than the 2,000 pesetas agreed but I pursuaded him to go on his way while I hopped aboard *Firebird* as she slipped away heading for Fuerteventura and the Isla de los Lobos.

It was a beautiful sunny day. **Cpl Kevin Johnson** was at the helm and a fresh breeze from the north pushed us at a good pace down the east coast of Lanzarote. Punta de Papagayo (Parrott Point) passed to starboard and we left Lanzarote behind. Disappointed we sail on down the east coast of Fuerteventura for two hours to Puerto Del Rosario; the islands capital town, and our Skipper is none too happy with the anchorage here. However, what's this? The Skipper is consulting notes made on a map months before in England. Puerto de Castillo, a Marina; but bounded by a reef with only a 6m wide channel. We go for it. Anchor up and we motor down the coast for an hour; two fixes, past the airport and we sight the castle tower. We keep well out before rounding the harbour wall. Well—where is the reef? The Skipper looks at the echo sounder and finds it—½m under the keel! Two men up for'ard and look down. We see the bottom very clearly, it becomes even clearer, then the water takes on a darker blue as we come over the reef and enter the marina. The Skipper wipes his brow then bosses us about to make ready warps and fenders; port side to. Playa del Castillo. A beautiful place with a beach and first class facilities. Our home for two days.



Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria
LCpl David Griffiths, Pte Mickey Montgomery,
Pte Tracey Lissemore

Wednesday morning and all the Woods had gone. It was a good two days. We slip del Castillo and continued sailing south past Puerto Negro. Our NE wind was still fresh behind us and we enjoyed a good crack for a couple of hours before losing it as we rounded Punta de la Entallada and its magnificent lighthouse positioned high on ochre coloured cliffs that fall sheer to the sea. A light wind as we sailed SW across Playa de Sotavento towards Punta de Matorral. The Skipper gave us a brief lesson on the basics of the sextant and its uses including finding the height of a mountain. However, the mate's fixes were good and tight; as was the mate! and we made our given ETA off of Morro Jable and dropped anchor near a sandy beach.

Thursday and the starboard watch was up early to see *Firebird* out of Puerto Sable bound for Gran Canaria. It's still dark, but a full moon and several fishing boats with more than their navigation lights were moving silently in a calm sea. Once clear of the lee of Fuerteventura the wind freshened and we knew we would cover the 75 miles in about 11 hours. This was to be our last day sailing. Conditions were very much the same as the previous Saturday and we used the same sail. 'George' did not come up on deck and most of the crew had a fair crack at the helm. We were visited by our second school of dolphins who played around *Firebird* for about half an hour. Morale was very high and it was possibly a bit of an anti-climax when Gran Canaria showed itself on the horizon. As we rounded the southern tip, Punta Maspalomas, we lost the wind again and had to motor the last few miles to Puerto Rico.

Sunday, our last day. The Skipper and Mate catalogued the food and made a shopping list for leg four. The Mate also gets a lesson on stripping, cleaning and assembling the headsail sheet winches. Showers were taken under a high pressure hose on the pontoon. It really sluices one down and reaches the parts other showers can't reach.

On Sunday evening the whole crew (less Malley who has found another berth and 'George' because he was not invited) enjoyed a meal ashore; the galley had been cleaned and the Skipper came up with some spare exercise funds! Probably the best meal of the trip—apart from the rum custard that is!

Monday the 16th. Final pack and clean up. We hired a car as it worked out cheaper than using taxis. I ferried people on the two hour round trip. I had a farewell beer with the Skipper, said our thanks and good-byes until we meet again in April when I join *Firebird* in Gibraltar for leg 10 to Gosport.

We met the next crew in the departure transit as they arrived and we returned on the same aircraft.

Firebird 'At Anchor'
Morro Jable, Fuerteventura

EXERCISE NEPALESE BACKSTOP

by LCpl Shaun Parkin

'On behalf of the Captain and the crew we hope you enjoyed flight BG 001 from London to Kathmandu and thank you for flying Biman Bangladesh Airlines'. **LCpl Shaun Parkin** will certainly always remember the flight, because he was presented with a cake and a bottle of champagne to celebrate his 20th birthday, which he thought everyone had forgotten. More important, however, the words signalled the end of 10 months planning, preparation and fund raising, and the proper start of Ex Nepalese Backstop organised and led by **Capt Eric Heritage**.

The aim of the expedition was to ascend Mount Kala Pattar, 5,545m, and trek to the Everest Base Camp. The team comprised nine members of 16 Sig Regt, including four girls, and **Sgt Ian Gaston** from 1 Corps Tp Workshops.

The expedition was made possible as a result of financial contributions from a variety of sources: in addition to a personal contribution of approximately £400 per person, there were grants from various PRIs, the Corps, the WRAC, the CinCs Officers Enterprise fund and G3 adventurous training funds; sponsorship was also forthcoming from P&O European Ferries, Toyota Cars (GB) Ltd and the NAAFI.

The first few days were spent in the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu learning how to barter, and of course, making final expedition arrangements. The team stayed in the Hotel Himalayan View before the start of the expedition. Despite its name the hotel, tucked away in a backstreet, was surrounded on all sides by buildings which blocked any panoramic views. Moreover, basic amenities were somewhat lacking by Western standards, but it was cheap!

All the trek arrangements were made through Rover Treks Expeditions trekking agency run by **Mike Cheney**, formerly a Sapper Major, who has been involved in this for some years. **Mike Cheney** was responsible for obtaining our trekking permits, outline planning of the route and provision of a sirdar (ie a native guide). **Kulratna Rai** a young Gurkha was our sirdar, it was his job to employ and control our porters, make sure we did not go astray from our pre-planned route, and interpret for us.

The start to the expedition was delayed a day due to the arrival of seven Heads of State for the opening of the Southern Asian Association for Regional Co-operation summit. However, at 0530 hrs on our third morning a convoy of taxis drove the team to the outskirts of Kathmandu where a rather ancient bus awaited to transport the team to Jiri.

The journey to Jiri lasted a day in itself. Our own bus could only take us to a place called Charikot. At this point the road had been washed away by a landslide, so the team had to pass it on foot. On the other side there was chaos and confusion; no longer did we have our own personal bus; instead, we had somehow to find a seat on a 40-seater bus already packed with about 100 people. Some sought refuge inside, whilst the rest sat on top with all the luggage. The rooftop was probably the best place, because one could at least have a chance of jumping to safety, if the bus happened to roll over the mountainside as it was driven at breakneck speed along the narrow, winding clifftop roads. As darkness fell the bus reached Jiri. The team booked into a lodge as it was too late to set up camp. This was the end of the tarmac road; from now on it was Shank's pony!

After leaving Jiri the first 10 days were spent trekking through the foothills of Nepal to Namche Bazaar, 3,446m, which in effect marks the beginning of the Khumbu region, better known as the Everest region. The total curvilinear distance for this leg of the route was 50 miles, but with switchbacks and diversions in the trail, it is about 100 miles of walking from Jiri to Namche Bazaar.

The team soon discovered that it was not simply a case of going uphill all the way. The trip involves a series of ascents that total more than 35,200ft and descents totalling more than 26,100ft. The route passed through a number of small settlements, namely Shivalaya, Bhandar, Seti, Junbesi, Manidingma, Kharikola, Surkhe and Phakding. These were the main stopping points where we either camped or lodged depending upon the circumstances: a bed space in a cramped room shared at times with up to 40 other people ranged from 2-5 Rupees per person.

The trail itself was over dusty, stony ground which rose steeply and fell sharply. A number of gorges had to be tackled en route by crossing rather fragile looking suspension bridges; the bridge at Phakding, for instance, seemed to be held together by coathangers. The highest point on this part of the route was 11,850ft over the Lamjura Pass between Seti and Junbesi which is higher than any mountain in Germany. The views were excellent and the countryside varied; there were magnificent waterfalls, both barren and fertile plateau, fields full of vegetables and crops, orchards and forests full of fir, pine, blue pine, oak, rhododendron and juniper trees. The wildlife was equally fascinating to the satisfaction of **SSgt Rick Cooper**, who was carrying out a special ornithological study.

On the fifth day there was a welcome rest day at Junbesi. This allowed the two expedition scribes, **LCpl Shaun Parkin** and **WLCpl Carol Brockelsby**, to bring their diaries up to date. In addition, it gave many people a chance to recover from some of the medical problems over and above the customary sore feet, aches and pains: **SSgt Rick Cooper, Sgt Ian Gaston, Cpl Mick Bell** and **LCpl Shaun Parkin** were all suffering from bouts of chronic diarrheoa due either to impurities in the water or improperly prepared food.

For the most part the team boiled all its water. Apart from a supply of tinned meats to maintain protein in the diet, the team relied upon local foodstuffs; everyone soon became accustomed to rice, noodles, potatoes, chappatis, eggs and soup as the basic menu. Local meat was off the menu until the return journey because of its doubtful source of origin and the unhygienic storage. Alcoholic beverage was in short supply mainly because of the price; the further into the mountains one went, the more expensive goods became as they had been carried there. However, price was no object for one of the team who was rather partial to the odd bottle or three of Star Beer at 70-90 Rupees a bottle (£2-£3)—his wife was just lucky he could not use his credit card as he had done in Norway! For the remainder, drinks took the form of tea with yak's milk, lemon/black tea, coffee or hot orange. Two other drinks of a more local origin are worth a try; chang, which is a locally brewed beer, and rakshi, a rice-based distilled spirit, are both cheaper than all imported drinks on sale.

As yet little has been said of the porters. There were seven in number and each very different in character. However, they were all totally reliable, trustworthy and, above all, hard working; whilst we each carried our own 20-35 litre daysacks, they each carried two Army type kit bags weighing between 20-25kg a piece—and this was all for a daily wage of £1. **SSgt Jock Letford**, whose affable ways made him the obvious choice, was responsible for ensuring that the porters' food and lodging was all sorted out (both of which were paid for out of expedition funds). To make sure that they had a sufficient supply of calories twice a day the porters would consume plentiful portions of dahl bhat; this was a local dish consisting of rice, a lentil soup and stewed green vegetables, and it was not uncommon for them to devour three or four extra helpings at a sitting!

On the tenth day of the trek which took the team to Namche Bazaar we eventually entered the Everest National Park at a place called Jorsale at a cost of 60 Rupees a person. This marked the real beginning of the Khumbu of Everest region. In this area it was forbitten for people to use the local trees for firewood as was the habit outside the National Park because of the growing deforestation problems. That aside, Namche was also the last major settlement along the trail. In addition, it represented a rest day which was to be used for acclimatisation purposes.

Acclimatisation is an important process which helps reduce the effects of high altitude. Basically one ascends 400-500m on an acclimatisation day before returning to sleep at a lower altitude; the next day one actually treks to the higher height and sleeps there. Consequently the team decided to ascend to the Everest View Hotel at a height of 3,833m. From here one has a magnificent view of the entire Everest range. The hotel also has a visitors book in which we noticed the signature of **Mike Harding**, the TV comedian, who had been there the previous month; anyone who has trekked in this area before will understand his remarks under the comments paragraph: 'The Kleenex Trail: The Soft Way to Everest!'.

From Namche onwards one is in the heart of the Himalayan mountains. All around are breath-taking, awe-inspiring views of massive mountains such as Ama Dablam (6,856m), Lobuche (6,145m), Pumori (7,145m), Nuptse (7,879m) and Lhotse (8,501m) to name but a few—the view simply gets better and better, and when it does not get any better it just improves. The words of the anthropologist and climber **Mike Thompson** convey some of the atmosphere felt by trekkers and climbers to this wonderful region; 'to arrive by foot in Sherpa country is to gain some insight into what it was like for the Israelites to reach the Promised Land'.

20th birthday at 35,000ft: LCpl Shaun Parkin blows out the candles during the flight to Kathmandu

This trail was now predominantly upwards. After an overnight camping stop by the monastry at Tengboche (3,867m) the team had already reached the rocky, snow covered region of the Khumbu by the time it had arrived at Pheriche (4,252m). Another acclimatisation day was spent here which all visitors to the region are recommended to do. Pheriche was once a temporary yak herding station but is better known today for its Trekkers Aid Post. This is a building manned on a voluntary basis during the trekking season by four doctors from the USA on behalf of the Himalayan Rescue Association. In addition to providing medical supplies they also lecture upon the dangers of acute mountain sickness. The symptons range from nausea, dizziness, shortness of breath, swelling of the hands and feet to persistent vomiting, severe headaches, gross fatigue, delirium and ultimately, if not treated, unconsciousness and death.

Already there were a number of individuals in the party who were experiencing symptons of altitude illness. Consequently, it was decided to make the expedition base camp at Lobuche (4,930m) instead of Gorak Shep (5,184m), and a few people took Diamox, which speeds up the process of acclimatisation—headaches at this height felt like being kicked by horses hooves from the inside. There was also the problem of the cold to overcome; the temperature at night was now around −30°C and only barely above 0°C during the day despite the sunshine.

From Lobuche the team launched its assault on both of its objectives. Due to illness not everyone managed both but most achieved at least one. The first day was spent trekking to Gorak Shep and then ascending Kala Pattar (5,545m). The second day was taken up by a repeat journey to Gorak Shep followed by a seven hour slog to the Everest Base Camp and back to Gorak Shep. The ground underfoot for both objectives was quite treacherous; glacial streams, terminal moraines and the Khumbu glacier itself all had to be encountered. However, the views of Everest from Kala Pattar were magnificent, and the crystal and ice formations on route to the Base Camp were superb. There was also an element of danger on the Base Camp assault as there were rockfalls and a number of avalanches on the mountains to either side of the route.

At this point the members of Ex Nepalese Backstop had now followed in the footsteps of Sir Edmund Hillary, who successfully ascended Everest in 1953. The world's highest mountain was named after Sir George Everest, head of the Survey of India from 1823 to 1843, but locals use its Nepali name, Sagarmatha. Sadly the team had to start its return journey, which itself proved to be a separate adventure.

The team backtracked as far as a place called Lukla. What had originally taken six days to cover now only took three. In the case of the expedition leader, **Capt Eric Heritage**, there was an extra sense of urgency, because he had developed a tooth abscess which was causing him immense pain. At Lukla the team had to risk life and limb by boarding a Twin Otter, which took off from a stone covered grass runway carved out on the side of a mountain with a steep drop at the end of the runway into the gorge many feet below.

On its return to Kathmandu the team stayed in a slightly upmarket hotel, called the Hotel Nook, which even had room service. At last

The start of the trek and the bus to Jiri: *(back L-R)* Capt Eric Heritage, SSgt Rick Cooper, Cpl Nick Bell, LCpl Shaun Parkin, SSgt Jock Letford, Sgt Ian Gaston *(front L-R)* Pte Mandy Stenner, Pte Nikki Watson, LCpl Carol Brockelsby and 2Lt Isobel Rose

after several weeks in the mountains everyone was able to have a decent shower and freshen up properly. The process of putting back on the many pounds shed in the hills also began in earnest; steaks on successive nights at the Vienna Restaurant, KC's and Rumdoodles soon reversed the downward trend. However, the food was not to everyone's benefit; **Capt Eric Heritage** and **SSgt Rick Cooper** both caught bouts of the notorious trekkers dysentry complaint called giardia.

Finally, the dreaded day to fly back to London arrived. There were still problems ahead, though; the team was forced to stop overnight in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, due to the imposition of a military curfew.

However, at the end of a month long expedition to the roof of the world everyone returned enriched with the diverse social, cultural, religious and, above all, geographical experiences of a trip of a lifetime, indelibly imprinted upon their memory.

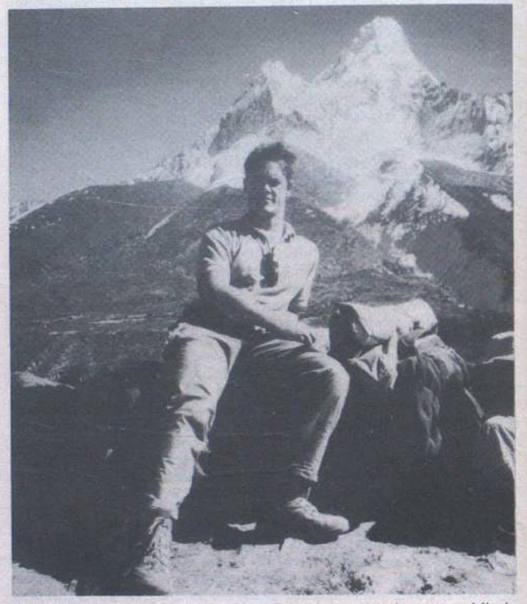
Setting up camp at Tengboche with Everest, Lhotse and Ama Dablam as a backdrop

At the top: *(L-R)* SSgt Jock Letford, Capt Eric Heritage, LCpl Carol Brockelsby, LCpl Shaun Parkin, Pte Mandy Stenner and Cpl Nick Bell celebrate reaching the top of Mount Kala Pattar, 5,545m, with Nuptse, Everest and Lhotse in the background

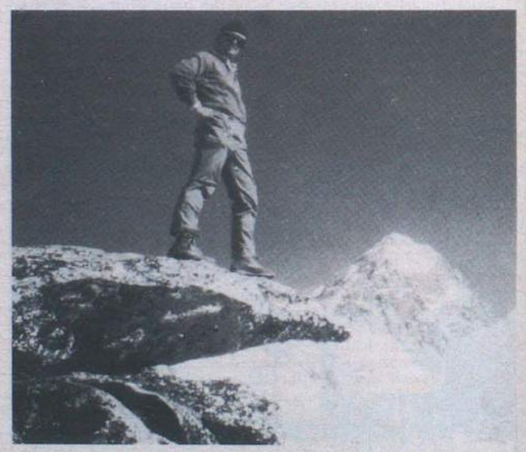
After the trek team festivities in one of the many Kathmandu restaurants

THE TEAM

Expedition Leader	**Capt Eric 'I want my stick back' Heritage**
Chief Snapper	**2Lt Isobel 'It's at the bottom of my bag' Rose**
Wines Member	**SSgt Rick 'You can rub my back' Cooper**
Master of the Punkah-Wallahs	**SSgt Jock 'Crocodile' Letford**
Guest Artist	**Sgt Ian 'The Doc' Gaston**
Kitchen Boy	**Cpl Nick 'Just around the corner' Bell**
Gossip Columnist	**LCpl Carol 'Out of the window' Brockelsby**
Keeper of the Garter	**LCpl Shaun 'Ripper' Parkin**
Assistant Baggage Handler	**WPte Mandy 'I'm not stupid' Stenner**
Slimmer of the Year	**WPte Nikki 'Sunseeker' Watson**



The classic trekker's pose: Capt Eric Heritage relaxes a while in front of Ama Dablam, 6,856m



Capt Eric Heritage on top of Mount Kala Pattar, 5,545m, stands next to the roof of the world, Mount Everest, 8,848m.

— Movements —

Officers

FEBRUARY 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj R. D. Abbott	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj R. Baxter	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Briggs	MOD (DSS(A))
Capt D. J. H. Burden	School of Signals
Capt I. Cameron-Mowat	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt W. M. Campbell	RMAS
Capt F. J. Connor	JCUFI
Capt (TOT) P. G. Cross	School of Signals
Maj W. P. Crowley	RARDE
Lt P. J. Davis	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) W. J. Dodds	13 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) A. F. Dyer	HQ Int Corps Depot and Centre
Maj (TOT) T. J. Everett	School of Signals
Lt S. E. Felton	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc) J. A. B. Floyd	28 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) R. Fortune	33 Sig Regt (V)
Capt I. Foxley	HS Army Staff Course Camberley
Capt J. M. Gale	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt R. P. Giles	2 Queens
Capt N. W. Gill	29 Sig Regt
Lt R. H. Gladwin	28 Sig Regt
Lt Col C. H. Glydon	HQDSF
Capt (Tfc) R. J. Good	School of Signals
Maj P. K. Gorford	33 Sig Regt (V)
Maj K. J. Hadfield	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. A. Hallett	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Capt A. P. Hearn	210 Sig Sqn
Maj I. S. A. Henderson	MOD (PE)
Maj R. S. Hewitt	QG Sig Regt
Maj J. A. MacFarlane	HQ BAOR
Maj J. R. M. McGrath	DQA/PS
Capt D. M. Mills	HS Army Staff Course Camberley
Capt N. T. Moore	HS Army Staff Course Camberley
Capt (TOT) C. S. J. Phillips	28 Sig Regt
Lt S. R. Sharman	14 Sig Regt
Capt P. H. Smith	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col C. I. Spencer	HQ BAOR
Capt D. M. D. Steele	HS Army Staff Course Camberley
Capt N. A. Swainson	7 Sig Regt
Lt M. L. Tait	School of Signals
Maj R. M. Thurston	MOD (PE)
Capt P. R. Towers	225 Sig Sqn
Capt A. K. Trimble	28 Sig Regt
Lt Col I. Turner	HS 11 Sig Regt
Col K. G. Turner	MOD
Maj S. J. Turpin	MOD
Capt (Tfc) P. Westwell	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Lt Col P. Whitemore	21 Sig Regt
Capt G. J. Whyman	Misc Appts (Home)
Maj D. J. Wills	MOD
Lt Col R. L. Windmill	HS School of Signals

MARCH 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt S. J. Ardagh-Walter	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col H. M. Bonaker	HQBAOR
Lt Col P. J. R. Brown	RCB
Lt A. D. Burgin	11 Sig Regt
Lt J. W. Cooper	30 Sig Regt
Capt M. Cost	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt (Tfc) J. T. Cowen	28 Sig Regt
Col C. H. D. Cross	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) D. R. Davey	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. B. Davis	RSRE
Capt J. Dryburgh	HQ BF Belize
Maj R. J. Good	21 Sig Regt
Maj K. W. Goodfellow	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) D. A. Gruncell	14 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) R. Hannagan	HS HQ Northern Ireland
Capt (Tfc) A. O. Harkins	243 Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) L. A. Jeffery	HQ SEDist
Capt (QM) M. V. Ledwards	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj D. A. Lynam	MS(PBII)
Capt D. G. Macaulay	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. H. Mardo	30 Sig Regt
Capt C. E. Millard	28 Sig Regt
Capt C. C. Miller	Army Pers Selection Group
Capt P. J. Moseley	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt P. A. Osment	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt T. J. Pengelley	244 Sig Sqn
Capt J. P. B. Perks	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. C. Phillips	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt S. R. Renfrey	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt A. K. Ridley-Jones	8 Sig Regt
Maj I. O. Robertson	RMAS
Lt R. C. P. Salvoni	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt G. Smith	HQ 19 Inf Bde
Capt P. M. Telford	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. J. Tuson	14 Sig Regt
Capt J. R. Wallace	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt (Tfc) D. G. Weston	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Maj A. G. Whiddett	30 Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Whitby	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
Maj P. G. F. Wilkin	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt (Tfc) D. G. Wills	225 Sig Sqn

WOs and SNCOs

JANUARY 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Sgt M. Flanagan	8 Sig Regt

FEBRUARY 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 M. J. Hanlon	22 Sig Regt
WO2 M. H. Barbe	13 Sig Regt
WO2 R. J. Bowman	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 R. F. Davis	9 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) S. M. Tosh	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) C. J. Turner	21 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) R. C. West	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) C. J. Whitehead	School of Signals
SSgt (YofS) M. C. Ball	7 Sig Regt
SSgt G. Burton	8 Sig Regt
SSgt R. C. Cory	Battle Group Tactical Trainer (North)
SSgt (YofS) G. M. Evans	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt R. Gilbey	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt W. D. McLean	21 Sig Regt
SSgt N. P. Widdup	55 Sig Sqn (V)
ASSgt (YofS) C. Aslett	35 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt J. P. Beecham	632 Sig Tp
ASSgt (YofS) P. L. Carroll	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) I. C. Gascoigne	240 Sig Sqn
ASSgt (YofS) B. M. Kelly	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) S. M. Little	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) D. M. Marriott	30 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) T. A. McHugh	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. J. O'Connor	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) M. P. Purves	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) W. J. Stack	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt (YofS) G. E. Stratton	233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt (YofS) G. O. Yeomans	7 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Aubrey	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Boland	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. E. Boulton	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt T. P. Burns	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Clark	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Crossley	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. G. Davies	School of Signals
Sgt A. M. Downs	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt B. T. Etheridge	School of Signals
Sgt M. S. Gibbons	School of Signals
Sgt J. F. Graham	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. D. Griffiths	School of Signals
Sgt P. Gower	School of Signals
Sgt D. J. Harman	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. C. Hilton	School of Signals
Sgt S. Hodgson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Ingham	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. D. Jenkinson	School of Signals
Sgt W. C. Johnson	HQ AFCENT
Sgt C. J. Meehan	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. Minton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt L. P. McHale	602 Sig Tp
Sgt T. J. McNeice	School of Signals
Sgt G. M. Nuttall	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Overton	School of Signals
Sgt J. R. Roberts	QG Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Roberts	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt P. E. Skerritt	642 Sig Tp
Sgt A. J. Smith	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. J. Smyth	School of Signals
Sgt P. J. Stevenson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Taylor	ACIO Hitchin
Sgt K. Thomson	ACIO Wakefield
Sgt C. M. Tyson	School of Signals
Sgt S. Wardle	School of Signals
Sgt R. C. Windows	School of Signals
Sgt A. G. A. Woolaston	School of Signals
Sgt R. J. Young	9 Sig Regt
ASgt J. P. Avery	30 Sig Regt
ASgt T. H. Boddison	31 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt K. Boxall	ACIO Middlesborough
ASgt P. A. Fluck	572 RLD
ASgt D. L. King	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt S. R. Oman	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt T. P. Petherbridge	587 RLD
ASgt J. P. A. Phipps	22 Sig Regt
ASgt M. D. Roe	AA Coll Harrogate

MARCH 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 (YofS) D. Coleman	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 P. Cuckow	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 (FofS) P. J. Martin	14 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. J. E. Wood	22 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) R. B. Wyllie	642 Sig Tp
AWO2 D. Ellis	30 Sig Regt
SSgt S. A. Clarke	29 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) T. D. Gower	28 Sig Regt
SSgt T. Hague	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
SSgt (YofS) D. H. Jones	16 Sig Regt
SSgt J. D. Mackie	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt K. V. P. Sandy	11 Sig Regt
SSgt D. A. J. Ward	HQ 2 Sig Bde

SSgt (YofS) S. P. Wood	.. .. ..	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt F. Evans	.. .. ..	71 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt J. R. Middleton	.. .. ..	Rochan (Balado Bridge)
ASSgt (YofS) B. Sinclair	.. .. ..	QG Sig Regt
ASSgt M. R. Tait	.. .. ..	Bristol UOTC
ASSgt M. A. Wright-Jones	.. .. ..	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Pickersgill	.. .. ..	22 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Bain	.. .. ..	QG Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Crampton	.. .. ..	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. J. England	.. .. ..	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt B. J. Hair	.. .. ..	7 Sig Regt
Sgt N. Hardy	.. .. ..	16 Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Hitchen	.. .. ..	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt J. J. Hitchens	.. .. ..	585 RLD
Sgt M. Jenkins	.. .. ..	ACIO Manchester
Sgt A. Johnson	.. .. ..	Comms and Sy Gp UK
Sgt J. P. Johnston	.. .. ..	576 RLD
Sgt K. H. Jones	.. .. ..	HQ Northag
Sgt P. H. Matthews	.. .. ..	13 Sig Regt
Sgt G. M. Mayne	.. .. ..	ACIO Preston
Sgt R. S. Neal	.. .. ..	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. W. Prescod	.. .. ..	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. J. Reynolds	.. .. ..	RAF Mount Pleasant
Sgt A. Ridley	.. .. ..	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. Ruddiman	.. .. ..	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Schofield	.. .. ..	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. M. Smith	.. .. ..	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. R. Stevenson	.. .. ..	22 Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. Tatman	.. .. ..	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. Tremain	.. .. ..	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt F. T. Walker	.. .. ..	HQ Afnorth
Sgt G. Woodcock	.. .. ..	7 Sig Regt
Sgt W. S. Young	.. .. ..	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
ASgt S. J. Blackmore	.. .. ..	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. Brown	.. .. ..	ACIO Coventry
ASgt B. Clarke	.. .. ..	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. Finch	.. .. ..	30 Sig Regt
ASgt M. Hopkins	.. .. ..	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt J. W. Raeburn	.. .. ..	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt N. White	.. .. ..	4 Fd Regt RA

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1988.

42 Sig Regt Officers Club	£170.00
89 (Warwickshire) Sig Sqn (V)	£100.50
In memory of Mrs Anne Thewlis	£100.00
RSA Eastbourne	£ 85.00
In memory of Maj V. J. King	£ 68.77
Maj K. W. Jordan	£ 15.00
Lt Col D. W. Gent	£ 14.00
63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V)	£ 13.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
R. S. Greenstreet	£ 10.00
Capt J. R. Way	£ 10.00
In memory of Maj H. H. Johns MBE	£ 5.00
G. S. Dawson	£ 4.20
G. W. Cook	£ 4.11
Miscellaneous	£224.18
	£833.76

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1988:

28 Sig Regt	£168.92
In memory of Maj B. Bevan	£ 15.00
Maj E. P. Hughes	£ 10.00
RSA Torbay	£ 10.00
In memory of A. V. Ient	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous	£ 0.35
	£209.27

SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

The new chairman of the ex Services Mental Welfare Society is **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB MBE.** He took up the appointment in November last. This very worthwhile Society specialises in helping men and women of all ranks who suffer from psychiatric disabilities.

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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.

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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

Acklandsnow—Sgt W. G. Acklandsnow—died 14 January 1988.
Armstrong—SSgt (Supvr R) M. J. Armstrong—died 18 February 1988.
Barnes—SSgt E. Barnes—served 1939-58—died 12 January 1988.
Candy—Sgt A. W. Candy—served 1936-58—died 25 January 1988.
Carroll—SSgt A. Carroll—died 31 November 1987.
Donoghy—Sgt S. M. Donoghy—served 1920-45—died 10 January 1988.
Hamerton—Maj R. E. H. Hamerton—died 20 February 1988.
Henderson—Brig J. L. Henderson OBE—served 1915-52—died 1988.
Howard—Sgt H. T. D. Howard—died 23 January 1988.
Howley—WO1 L. V. Howley—died 26 August 1987.
Jenner—Cpl E. M. Jenner—died 6 December 1987.
Martin-Rhind—Mrs D. M. R. (Peggy)—died 29 January 1988.
Redworth—Sgt F. Redworth—died 17 December 1987.
Reid—Cpl D. Reid—died 9 December 1987.
Robinson—ex WO2 G. Robinson—served 1938-52—died 10 February 1988.
Short—SSgt R. Short—died 1 December 1987.
Stephenson—Lt Col T. G. V. Stephenson OBE—served 1932-59—died 1 March 1988.
Wagner—Sgt F. L. Wagner—served 1939-50—died 20 October 1987.
Weedon—Maj G. A. Weedon—served 1924-61—died 19 January 1988.
White—WO2 E. A. White BEM—served 1942-62—died 26 November 1987.
Woodhead—Maj P. D. Woodhead—served 1941-46—died January 1988.

OBITUARIES

Bevan—Maj B. Bevan. Bertie Bevan enlisted as a boy in RE Signals in 1914 and saw service in the first world war. He transferred to the Corps in 1921. He was commissioned as a (TOT) in 1939, retired in 1956 and died on 25 January 1988.

In the second world war he was taken prisoner in the Far East and spent those years working on the railway. He did, however, make a good recovery from his experiences and served in Eastern Command Signals, Crowborough after the war. He will be remembered for his love of sport and his particular interest in cross country running where he assisted **Jock Terrell** in the training programmes. He was a good soldier and a pleasant comrade.

Bertie Bevan's wife **Edie** whom he married in 1923 died three years ago. He leaves three sons and a daughter.

Brice—Maj S. A. Brice. It is with deep regret that we at Communications and Security Group (UK), report the death of **Stan** whilst in hospital in London, on Christmas Eve 1987.

Stan enlisted in the Corps in October 1951 and on completion of basic training at Catterick, commenced his career as a Special Telegraphist at Woodhouse, Loughborough. A resolute and energetic person, he excelled in all aspects of military life and was revered by all in the field of sport and athletics.

He attended the first Yeoman of Signals course and went on to be commissioned in 1970. He saw service in Austria, Germany, Singapore and Cyprus and made many friends. His professionalism, dedication to duty and concern for the well-being of his fellow Officers and men, made him the epitome of the gentleman he was.

He took early retirement at 53 years of age whilst serving at Comms and Sy Gp (UK) and left the area to take up employment and to live in Orpington.

Stan will be sadly missed by his widow **Dot**, daughter **Shirley**, two grand-children, his relatives and a host of friends.

Chapman—Maj (Retd) H. McD Chapman—Henry Chapman who served in the Corps from 1930-1969 was a well known and well loved character with a strong sense of humour as well as a lively and happy personality. He certainly lived life to the full.

He will, of course, be best remembered as a tennis player. His enthusiastic approach to the sport earned him the respect of all who came into contact with him—both young and old. After he returned from Germany in 1980 he got involved in the Junior Grass Roots Coaching and was a popular person with the children around the tennis courts and supported the youngsters in their Tournaments around the Nottinghamshire circuit.

Henry died on 23 February 1988 and is survived by his wife **Gwen,** their two sons, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Funnell—Maj Gerald Roger (Gerry) Funnell was born on 4 January 1939 and educated at Welbeck College and RMA Sandhurst. He was commissioned into Royal Signals in 1959 and served successively in 216 Para Sig Sqn, 1 Armd Div Sig Regt, 19 (Air Formation) Sig Regt Singapore, 602 Sig Tp, and 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt. After attending the Army Staff College he was posted in 1973 as DAA & QMG to the Project Wavell/Bates Team. This was followed by a tour as a Squadron Commander in 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt before taking up a GSO2(W) appointment in MOD(PE) in 1977. He was next appointed 2IC of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. In 1981 he was posted for three years to HQ NORTHAG/2 ATAF and before he died in November 1987 he served as the project liaison officer on the staff of the Brigade and Battlegroup Trainer at Sennelager.

Gerry was a man of considerable character and charm, who lived life to the full. He did everything with enormous enthusiasm but will be best known as an accomplished skier. His love of the sport was infectious and the success of Corps skiing in recent years is largely due to his tireless energy and leadership. In 1983 he was awarded honorary Corps Ski colours in recognition of 16 years dedicated service to Corps skiing. He had been Secretary of Corps skiing from 1968 until shortly before he died. He had also organised the 1st Division Ski meeting for the past seven years and it is characteristic of his determination that he was still involved in the organisation of the 1988 1st Division Meeting when he died. In 1986 he was rewarded by seeing the trophy for the Champion Army Skiing Unit, the Princess Marina Cup, presented for the very first time to a Corps Regiment, 22 Sig Regt. As well as skiing he was a keen rugby player, field and mess. Some will remember him as as young subaltern minus several items of mess dress in the thick of the scrum during prolonged bouts of mess rugby. He was also a skilled carpenter of high quality miniature furniture, a German linguist and a talented artist.

Always a courageous fighter his final battle was to test him to the limit. The long painfully protracted battle against cancer was fought with brave determination, and dogged cheerfulness which were admired by all who were close to him in the last few years.

After a final spell in Woolwich Military Hospital, **Gerry** died on 26 October 1987 with his wife **Sue** and his sons **Ben** and **Anton** close by. He will be greatly missed by his many friends in the Corps, who extend their profound sympathy to his family.

Col G. H. Peebles OBE, Commander Brigade and Battlegroup Trainer read out the following tribute to the late **Maj Funnell** to the Trainer staff on the morning of his funeral:

'Ladies and Gentlemen, before we begin this exercise I think it would be entirely appropriate—particularly in the presence of a user Brigade HQ—to pay tribute to the late **Maj Gerry Funnell** who died last Monday in Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital and whose funeral took place at 1000 hrs this morning in the Chapel of RMA Woolwich.

Gerry Funnell was the Project Officer for the implementation of the plans to enhance the Battlegroup Trainer to be able to exercise Brigade HQs. This is not a funeral oration so I won't trust myself to dwell on his qualities—which were many—except to say that he was a delightfully urbane officer who contributed enormously to the establishment of the Brigade and Battlegroup Trainer, the ethos of the way we operate, and who established fruitful personal relationships with the myriad of people involved with the Trainer project.

A brilliant sportsman—only last year he told me he had wind-surfed with the World Champion off the Dutch Coast, and known to thousands of skiers for his skills and, more recently, for his coaching and his work as an official at ski championships—he set us all a breath-taking example of death-defying courage in the face of insidious, increasingly painful, ever more crippling cancer—and in the course of the indignity of repeated examinations, tests, diagnoses and treatment.

Maj Mike Bradley represented us all at the funeral—and we joined him in spirit: to salute the memory of **Gerry Funnell**, and to offer comfort to **Sue, Anton** and **Ben.**

Ient—ex Sgt Albert Victor Ient. Vic died peacefully at the Farnham Hospital, Surrey, on Tuesday 9 February 1988. Born into a large family in 1905 he spent his early years in London. Following his brothers' lead he enlisted with the 13th London Regiment (TA) on 13 September 1921. Two years later at Whitehall he transferred to the regulars and the Royal Corps of Signals. The next six years was spent at the Signal Training Centre Maresfield or Aldershot and most of that as a mounted soldier with 'D' Troop Cavalry Division Signals. Posted to Malta in 1929 he met and married **Toby** in 1932. In the following nine years, **Vic** saw service in the Near East, Middle East and at Home before moving to Hong Kong as the Line Sergeant to the Hong Kong Signal Company in December 1938. On Christmas Day 1941 he became a Prisoner-of-War and for the next four years was forced to work in a Dockyard near Osaka on the mainland of Japan. Liberated by the Americans in November 1945 he was ordered to Sydney, Australia, only to find his family had been repatriated a few weeks early. In 1947 having settled in Aldershot, **Vic** decided on a new career with the Post Office Engineers. Over the following 23 years he rose to Area Manager Telecoms for the Guildford and Basingstoke District. A Life Member of the Royal Signals Association **Vic** devoted much of his time and considerable energy to the Old Comrades. For many years he was Secretary of the very active Aldershot Branch where his enthusiasm and interest in Corps matters was well known; many serving and past members have paid tribute to his expertise and ever willing support. In **Vic**'s eyes, this bond of comradeship figured prominently, he was a soldier all his life, in and out of uniform, and will always be remembered with great affection by his many friends, a memory that will be cherished most dearly. To **Toby**, his sons and their families go our heartfelt sympathy.

McGrath—Maj J. R. M. McGrath (Jim) died on 12 December 1987. He had suffered from asthma, yet his death was totally unexpected and a shock to his family and many friends.

Jim's Army career started at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1974 where he attended SMC5 before he was commissioned into the Corps on 29 June 1974. He was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Welbeck College. At Sandhurst he established himself as a reliable and dependable friend to many. He also acquired a name as an Officer Cadet prepared to have a go at most things. Amongst other activities he took up both gliding and parachuting.

He completed a successful tour as a troop commander in Lippstadt with 22 Sig Regt before moving to Shrivenham for his first tour at the Royal Military College of Science. Here, he successfully read for an electronic engineering degree, whilst also finding the time to pursue, with typical energy, his great love of sport. He played hockey well but will be particularly remembered as an accomplished soccer player, rising to become captain of the College team. Throughout his adult life he played sport with great enthusiasm, maintaining the best traditions of sportsmanship and fair play.

After graduating, he was posted to the Junior Regiment at Ouston in 1979 where, as a Troop Commander, he made many lasting friendships within the Corps. It was shortly after his arrival there that he married **Sally**. In 1982 he was posted to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt as a Squadron 2IC and from there to 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Colchester in 1985. When he died **Jim** was back at Shrivenham, having been selected to attend the Army Staff Course.

Many of us will recall, with affection, his Scottish characteristics, his great sense of loyalty to friends, his intolerance towards pretentiousness and his gentle sense of humour. He loved social occasions, and was often the first to arrive and the last to leave. Wherever he served it was apparent to those around him that he was universally well liked and respected. Above all else **Jim** will be remembered as a devoted father and a good husband. Without doubt his family was the centre of his life and his first priority.

Jim died at the age of 34 at the place where he had spent the greatest single period of his military career, where he had made many true friendships and where he had lived a full and active life. Those friends remember him now and their deepest sympathy go to **Sally, Rory** and the new baby.

Wattle—Maj Walter Robert Wattle ERD ('Willy'). It is with great sadness that his family report the death of **'Willy' Wattle** who died at his home on 4 December 1987 after a long period of illness.

Born on 27 October 1909 he joined the Corps in April 1928 and served with the Cavalry Division Signals in Tidworth before being posted to India in 1930. He took part in the Mohmand Campaign of 1933 and returned to UK in March 1935. He was again posted to India in December 1935 this time to serve at the Signal Training Centre (India) at Jabbalpore. Here, as well as work, he also served as a member of the Signal Training Centre (India) Motorcycle Display Team. He returned to UK in 1937 and was posted to the 1 Div Sigs. It was with this unit that he took part in the opening days of World War 2 and went to France with the BEF. He returned to UK in 1940 from the beaches of Dunkirk and served in York until 1942 when he was commissioned as TMO. Once more he returned to India; this time as an instructor at the Signal Training Centre (India) where he stayed until the end of the war.

At the end of the war he left the Regular Army and joined the TA, and subsequently finished his service as a member of the AER.

In civilian life he worked as an instructor at the Queen Elizabeth College for the Disabled at Leatherhead, where he was a popular and much respected member of staff, until his retirement in 1974.

He married his wife **Peggy** on 31 August 1935 and has two daughters and six grandchildren (one of whom, **Lt I. G. Standen** is serving in the Corps) who will sadly miss him.

Webb—Maj Clifford Frederick Webb MSM died in Catterick after a long and trying illness on 5 January 1988.

Cliffe enlisted in the Corps in 1929 and subsequently trained as a Lineman. His varied career spanned 32 years. He was commissioned in 1952 and retired as a QM in 1961. Several overseas postings included Jamaica, Persia and Iraq, Egypt, Korea and Singapore. In the UK he was with Scottish Command in 1937. He was awarded the MSM in 1961. After he left the Corps he joined the Civil Service and worked in the Catterick Military Hospital. **Clifford Webb** leaves a widow, **Marion**, a son, **Maj (TOT) C. G. Webb** and a daughter.

Rodgers—Mrs Faye Rodgers. Many in Royal Signals will be saddened by the death in February 1988 of **Mrs Faye Rodgers**, wife of **Lt Gen Don Rodgers** of the United States Signal Corps. **Lt Gen** and **Mrs Rodgers** had been associated with Royal Signals over many years. The Signal Officer-in-Chief has written to **Lt Gen Rodgers** expressing the condolences of the Corps.

CORPS DATES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

The 1988 AGM of the Royal Signals Institution will take place in RHQ Royal Signals at 1030 hrs on Tuesday 5 April 1988.

Members of the Institution are asked to note that in future the AGM will take place on the first Tuesday in April of each year.

CORPS DINNER

The dinner will be held at The London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4, on Tuesday 10 May 1988 at 1900 for 1930 hrs. Dress: Dinner Jacket.

The price of the dinner is £13.50 which includes pre-dinner drinks and the cost of wines at the table.

All Royal Signals officers, Regular or Territorial, serving or retired are eligible to attend. WRAC officers serving with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend.

Application for tickets to The Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. **Cheques should be made payable to 'HQ Mess, Royal Signals'.**

CORPS LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be held at the Headquarters Mess, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, on Saturday, 18 June 1988 at 1200 for 1300 hrs. Dress: Lounge suit.

The cost is £10 which includes pre-luncheon drinks and the cost of wines at the table.

All Royal Signals officers, Regular or Territorial, serving or retired, their wives and grown up children are eligible to attend. WRAC officers serving and retired with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend. The widows of Regular officers are invited as guests of the Corps. As far as possible invitations are sent directly to widows, but any reader who is aware of a widow not having received an invitation is asked to notify the Regimental Secretary of the widow's name and address. Private guests may also be invited.

Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.

HM THE QUEEN'S PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal GCVO may attend the Garden Party on Tuesday 19 July 1988.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date are asked to notify the Regimental Secretary 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 Colonel-in-Chief.

ROYAL SIGNALS BOARDSAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Royal Signals Boardsailing Championships are to be held at Browndown Camp, Gosport on 20-24 June 1988. Further particulars may be obtained from **Capt P. J. Filby**, Blandford Mil 2411.

FOR SALE

Uniform for Sale—To fit approximate size 41in chest, 35in waist, 6ft height. No reasonable offer refused: No 4 Dress (Warm weather SD), No 2 Dress (SD). Contact: **Maj P. R. Dick-Peter**, 238 (London) Sig Sqn, Chelsea Barracks, London SW1 8RF. Tel: Chelsea Mil (01-930-4466) 4200.

PERSONAL

We have received a letter from a **Miss Dorothy M. Arida** who was manageress of a dress shop and a shoe shop in Hong Kong in 1939-40. She wishes to contact two British soldiers one of whom was **William Arthur Smith**—born in Oxford in (probably) 1916. He was a member of the Corps. If anyone is able to help, **Miss Arida**'s address is 28 Mahonia Place, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635 USA.

Alan and **Gary Richardson** would be pleased to hear from any former friends they served with in 16 Sig Regt, 249 Sig Sqn or 28 Sig Regt. Please write to them at the following address—c/o General Deliveries, Gold River, British Columbia, VOP 1GO, Canada.

LAURIE MANTON

The newly appointed assistant editor of Soldier magazine, is **Laurie Manton** who served in the Corps from 1966 to 1975. He was at AA College, Harrogate, Intake 66A and afterwards trained as a Radio Telegraphist. He will, no doubt, be remembered as an Army cyclist.

Laurie Manton's father was a Major (QM) who joined the Army as a boy in 1924 and transferred to the Corps from RE Signals in 1924. He retired in 1963 after an interesting career and died in 1979.

CAN YOU HELP?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Lt J. C. Olley, who assisted in operating the 'Radio' in Changi and also helped to form an edited version of the News, to be distributed by 'word of mouth' to unit officers at their discretion, is anxious to trace his fellow 'Radio' operator **Capt James Mudie**. Also **Maj Wort** who was seconded to the Malay Regt and who lost an arm, **Capt Sabin**, 2/4 Machine Gnrs, Australian forces and **Maj Portal** who was also involved in the officers News service. If any one can help out with this request, please contact **J. C. Olley**, 19 Lapwing Lane, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9OS. Tel: 0491-651663.

HISTORICAL TRACE

We would be very grateful for information from anyone who might have served with or have knowledge of the present where abouts of any of the following personalities: **Capt Schoofs** (Holland 1944), **Sgt Hannaford** (Jedbough Mission) and **Sgts Galloway** and **Bingham** (Op Aloes 1944).

Additionally we would like to trace any other officers or NCOs who would have known or served with **L. R. D. (Len) Willmott** during the war years.

We would like to trace three other R Signals Sergeants who served with **LRD Len Willmott** in the Middle East. They are:-

Sgts 'Red' Ranzau and **Tom Nolan** who joined SOE at roughly the same time as **Len** in early 1941, went out to the Middle East with nim, and served with him in No 102 STS at Mt Carmel near Haifa.

Sgt Mike Chitis who was one of three Signallers to go in with **Op Harling** into Greece. He was a Roumanian or Palestinian Jew and is believed now to live in Israel.

Anyone who may be able to help should contact: **Lt Col C. D. A. Blessington**, Royal Signals, Ministry of Defence (Main Building) (Room 1303), Whitehall, London SW1Y 2HB. Tel: 01 218 6446.

CALLING ALL EX MEMBERS OF RADIO EXERCISE TROOP (RADEX) SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

OC Radex Tp 1 Sqn (TS) School of Signals is compiling the hsitory of the Troop, ie when it was formed?—Old OCs of Radex Tp—Any other facts. Would any ex member or anyone who can help in this matter, either by names or old photographs please send information to **Cpl Kieron McMahon** Radex Tp 1 Sqn (TS) School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

SITUATIONS VACANT

TAVR ASSOCIATION FOR GREATER LONDON VACANCY FOR A CADET EXECUTIVE OFFICER—SOUTH WEST LONDON

A vacancy will occur for a Cadet Executive Officer with the South West London Sector Army Cadet Force in October 1988.

The post is based in the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

The salary, including Inner London Weighting, an element to cover Pension Contributions and an allowance for all-hours-worked conditions of service is £11,191 rsising by three annual increments to £14,103.

The successful applicant will be required to join the ACF in the rank of Major and will be entitled to draw 28 days pay at ACF rates in any one year. He will be required to use his own car for official duty journeys for which an allowance is payable. He will be required to live within a reasonable distance of the Headquarters but will not be eligible for a Residence to Place of Work travel allowance.

Applicants should normally be under 55 years of age, unless already Association employees and have held commissioned rank in the Regular or Territorial Army. Sound military administrative Staff experience is essential.

Applications in writing with CV and supporting testimonials should be made not later than 1 May 1988 to: Secretary, Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve, Association for Greater London, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4RY.

REUNIONS

ASSOCIATION REUNIONS—1988

Our Reunions this year are scheduled for: Blandford, 15 May and Catterick, 25/26 June.

The AGM of the Association will take place in the Gymnasium at mid day on Sunday 26 June.

Adminstrative instructions covering these notable events have been issued to Branches of the Association and to individuals who have requested them from Association HQ. Others should apply, in writing, to Association Headquarters.

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON

A 'Red Hand Gang' Reunion will take place during the weekend 27-29 May 1988 at RAF Brize Norton.

The Reunion will take the following format:-

27 May—Officers/Senior NCOs Regimental Dinner in Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. ORs Drinks in Squadron Bar.

28 May—Cricket Match between past and present members. Games Night in the evening for all concerned.

29 May—Church Service followed by a curry lunch.

The Guest of Honour will be **Maj Gen J. M. McNeill** founder member of the original Air Support Signal Unit who was instrumental in introducing the 'Red Hand' as the formation sign.

Anyone wishing to attend is requested to contact **WO2 (SSM) Smiley** in writing at RAF Brize Norton as early as possible.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of the Aldershot Branch, Royal Signals Association, will be held on Saturday 14 May 1988 at the Officers Club, Fleet Road, Aldershot. The cost will be £12 and application should be made to **Lt Col D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Field Way, Aldershot, Hants GU11 4UL. Telephone (0252) 22418.

56 DIVISION SIGNALS OCA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of this Old Comrades Association is to be held at the Headquarters 31 Sig Regt (V), 190 Hammersmith Road, London W6 7DL, on Sunday 17 April 1988 at 1100 hrs for 1130 hrs, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer.

A curry lunch, to follow the meeting at 1200 hrs, in the Officers' Mess has been arranged, at which members' families and friends will be welcome. The price of £5 per head will include one glass of wine. A buffet will be provided as an alternative to the curry, and additional wine can be bought as required.

Individual notices will be sent to all members on the mailing list in due course, together with a proforma, to be completed, to indicate intention to attend or otherwise, and returned to the Chairman, **Maj R. D. Hughes TD.**

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCATION PRESIDENT'S DINNER—21 MAY 1988

The next OWA President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 21 May 1988. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Adjutant **Capt A. C. C. Walker**, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN. Tel: 0909 476326 Ext 30 or evenings 0603 846327 before 7 May 1988.

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.

PARACHUTE AND AIRBORNE SIGNALS REUNION—1/2 JULY 1988

Airborne Forces Weekend, 1/2 July 1988 should see a large reunion of ex-members of Airborne Forces in Montgomery Lines, Aldershot. All ex-members of Parachute and Airborne Signals Units are cordially invited to attend the general festivities and especially the Lanyard Club at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, which will be open from Friday 1 July at 1900 hrs. More details are available from **Capt Dick Hamilton** at the above address or by telephone 0252-24431 Ext 4547.

30TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

This year sees the 30th Anniversary of the formation of 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. To commemorate this occasion it is intended to hold a parade/lunch which past members of the Squadron are invited to attend. This will take place at Goojerat Barracks, Colchester on Friday 15 July 1988. For further information please contact the Adjutant on Colchester Military Extension 2737 or the Chief Clerk on Extension 2744.

38 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

38 Sig Regt (V), Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is celebrating its 21st Anniversary on 4 June 1988 at Manor Top TAC, Sheffield.

The members intend to hold a buffet supper after a Beating Retreat Ceremony on the evening of 4 June 1988.

Any civilians, or serving SNCOs who have served with 38 Sig Regt are invited to attend and are requested to contact the 'Sergeants Mess Committee' 21st Anniversary Function, Manor Top TAC, Hurlfield Road, Sheffield S12 2AN.

Personnel wishing to attend are to send details of Rank/Appointment, Squadron and the dates of their tour, present rank or title, with address, and advise if they intend bringing any members of their family.

A timetable of events will be published at a later date. It is regretted that no accommodation is available, but a list of Hotels, and Bed and Breakfast accommodation will be sent if requested.

KOHIMA REUNION—30-31JULY 1988—YORK

Saturday 30 July is the Garrison Open Day. This will be preceded by a Reception at 1230 hrs for members of the Kohima Veterans Dinner Club. Open Day commences at 1400 hrs; the last arena event finishes at 1630 hrs. In the evening there will be a dinner for veterans and members of the Dinner Club, commencing at 1900 hrs.

On Sunday 31st, there will be a simple open air service and this will be held opposite the Kohima memorial, York Minster Gardens at 1200 hrs, followed by a curry lunch in the Kohima enclosure in Imphal Barracks. Any enquiries should be addressed to: **Maj Charles Richards** (SO2G2), 2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4HD.

THE NATIONAL EX-PRISONER-OF-WAR ASSOCIATION

The National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association first Annual Reunion will be held at the Ladbrokes Holiday Centre, Middleton-on-Sea (Nr Bognor Regis). This holiday complex has been booked from Friday 21 October to Monday 24 October 1988.

A church parade will be organised for Sunday 23 October and interested organisations are cordially invited to honour the parade by the presence of their Standards. For further details of this first Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association weekend reunion send a stamped addressed envelope to: National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association Reunion Secretary, **Mr C. Jago**, 72 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HE. Telephone: (0722) 333599.

The Officers' Association

The Officers' Association provides services which are available to ex-officers and their widows and dependants.

Services Include:-

Employment—an efficient Employment Department to assist ex-officers of all ages and ranks to find suitable employment, both those just leaving the Services and those who have lost their civilian jobs. Many hundreds of ex-officers are found jobs every year over a wide salary range.

Financial Help—assistance is given in a number of ways such as: cash grants to those in financial distress, continuing allowances to those with very small incomes, help towards Homes fees to those who through age or infirmity can no longer run their own homes and can find no suitable home within their means.

The Association has offices in London and Dublin and the Scottish Branch has offices in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

All enquiries should be made to the General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY. (Tel: 01 930 0125).

FOLLOW THE DRUM

An exhibition of drums, drummers and drumming in the British Army is being staged at The National Army Museum from 16 June-18 September 1988. The Museum is situated at Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT and is open from Monday to Saturday 1000 hrs to 1730 hrs. Admission Free. Car Parking and Cafeteria.

'Follow the Drum' will include music and audio visual displays, and drums will be available to enable visitors to 'have a bash' themselves!

The exhibition will complement the 1988 Royal Tournament, whose theme this year is the drum.

If you would like to know more contact **Julian Humphrys** 01-730-0717 Ext 216.

The Biggest Assembly of Massed Bands Ever Comes To The 1988 Royal Tournament
Starring Drummers of the World—Red Indians, Africans, Indians and Chinese
The Biggest Military Show of Pomp and Pageantry Ever Seen!

Following the smash-hit success of last year's show, this year's Royal Tournament promises to be another tearaway success. Featuring the Army, it will present the greatest display of pomp, pageantry, music and sheer excitement ever seen live in London.

The theme will be the Story of the Drum—from Roman times to the present day—and the beat of this emotive instrument will call 2,000 men and women of the Armed Forces and 200 horses into the vast arena. There will be drummers from many nations—Red Indians, Africans, Indians and Chinese—and the whole show will throb with colour as well as sound.

A unique Hong Kong Motorcycle display, with their Chinese drummers and exotic Dragon Dancers will provide a vivid and entertaining performance on two wheels. And this year there will be the biggest assembly of massed bands—around 650 musicians in all—ever seen at The Royal Tournament!

The dashing Musical Drive by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery will once again take place. As will the world famous Royal Navy Field Gun Race—reckoned to be the toughest test of strength, skill and timing ever devised.

The Queen's Colour Squadron will put on a dazzling display of drill, performing over 200 movements without a word of command.

And, to the music of the Band of the Welsh Guards, the story of the Welsh soldier will be told. A story which shows how the Drummer is also a fighting soldier.

Finally, the Grand Finale will be quite sensational. The Story of the Defeat of the Spanish Armada, which took place 400 years ago, will be enacted. And at the end, the arena will be filled with bands, galleons, cannonfire and fireworks. For sheer cololur, spectacle and sound there will be nothing quite like it!

Fascinating Displays. Around the arena, within Earls Court, there will be many fascinating static displays—with military equipment on show—together with souvenir shops and refreshment areas. Doors open at 1200 hrs for afternoon shows and at 1800 hrs in the evenings. So visitors should come early and make a day of it.

Half Price for OAPs and Children under 12 for afternoon performances, Tuesday and Friday.

Special Reduced Rail Fares cut the cost of travel to London (please write to the Box Office for details). Visitors get bigger reductions if they hold a railcard and under 16s travel for just £1.10 each from anywhere in the UK mainland.

Party Booking Savers. Parties of 10 or more get a special 10% discount (except Saturday). If a group is bigger than 20, the Box Office will reserve their seats and allow 28 days to send payment.

For immediate credit card bookings, visitors simply phone the Box Office on: 01-373 8141.
Or write to: The Box Office, The Royal Tournament, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5 9TA.

LETTERS

From: Mr Wilbye Ratcliffe

Dear Sir,

4 CORPS SIGNALS 1939-1946

I wonder if any readers have records or personal recollections of the re-forming of the above unit, its movement from the UK and Mesopotamia to India and arrival and service in Imphal during the retreat from Burma.

The Corps was responsible for the reception and re-organisation of the Burma Corps after the Japanese invasion of Burma in 1942.

Did the Signal Regiment move as a complete unit or was it reformed at Imphal from various re-inforcement drafts and welded into an operational unit in situ by the Signals HQ Staff? Who was the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, RSM and other Signals staff in 4 Corps when this took place?

Any information that can be supplied will be greatly appreciated. I joined 4 Corps Signals in May 1945 in a reinforcing draft at Pegu.

Yours faithfully
Wilbye Ratcliffe

18 Buckingham Drive
Dukinfield
Cheshire SK16 5BZ

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, including all matters relative to *Wire* subscriptions and distribution, change of address etc.
Ext 8244	Welfare
Ext 8245	Assocition
Ext 8246	Editor/Assistant Editor *The Wire*
Ext 8247/8248	Accounts

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

SHQ

SHQ has seen many changes since the last notes were published.

Maj Nigel Hope departed for 1 Sig Bde, with a large smile on his face. **Maj Jeremy Ellis** arrived wearing an even larger smile (what does he know?).

Capt Brian Williams REME arrived to take over as Admin Officer from **Capt Jim Dawson** (Rumours are that **Capt Williams** was not smiling). He is wondering what he is doing here having to educate the Signals rather than counting blankets and losing MFO Boxes in 7 Armd Wksp (did PB21 get it wrong?).

The Orderly Room staff have undergone some major changes too. Our ORC, **Cpl Brian Smith** is still wondering what is going on, the Chief Clerk won't change his mind again! Maybe that is why he spent so long with 22 Sig Regt.

SSgt Dean Wood had departed to 210 in Catterick and many skiing holidays, he thinks! **Sgt Gordon Whale** takes over the Chief Clerk's desk. **LCpl Steve Underhill** arrives from BAOR to 'move' the Squadron on the departure of **LCpl 'Dougie' O'Neil**. A short visit **Douglas** but many memories. **LCpl Underhill** at this moment is about to perform his first miracle in the movements world and move the OCs MFO (Ferry Strike, no excuse). The clerks are in rowing training.

The old and bold are still with us, **WO2 (YofS) Ron 'Invisible Man' Coburn**, and **SSgt (YofS) Dave 'What Troop am I in now?' Leaning**, but we won't say anything about them, they are never here.

Finally, if anyone requires assistance in training their dog, then **Lt Alec Paterson** has offered his services. He advocates borrowing a library book on 'Your Dog and How to Make It Obey You', then paying for the book after your dog has chewed it beyond recognition.

COMMS TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Troop	**Lt A. Paterson**
2IC Troop	**2Lt S. G. Hutchinson**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt D. A. M. Bennett**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt S. Galimore**
	Sgt I. McKittrick

RADIO SECTION

Radio Section has seen the ever-changing face of the Squadron over the last half of the year with **LCpl Andy Cameron** and **Sig 'Drumo' Drummond** (second in the 'Longest hair in the Province' competition) still climbing up and down the Brigade's radio masts doing the Technicians job for them! Meanwhile other Radio Operators, **LCpl Carl Mullings, Sig 'Scotty' Scott, Mac McFarland** and **LCpl Mick 'Motor' Ryan** are currently employed in our new task of working with the EOD Sections.

Is this 1033 I'm signing for a set of rank badges?

After completing the Heli-Tele trials (on his day off!) in late December **LCpl 'Oddjob' 'where's my MID' Martin** is now eagerly preparing for this year's Heli-Tele tasks.

The remainder of the Operators have been under the watchful eye of **Sgt Ian 'Computers' McKittrick**, dealing with the day to day tasks of Syscon, Cougar radio trials and training.

COMMEN—LONDONDERRY
A report by Cpl 'Frankie' Branson

1988 sees the start of a new dictatorship. **Cpl 'Stu' Allister** leaves for pastures new with 22 Armd Bde. The headache of Brinton and AMS falls squarely on my shoulders, but thanks to the experience of other operators, it's all a lot easier.

With the success of last year's training for Pony Station Operators it is our endeavour to continue to raise the standards. Some senior operators will be dispatched to our Pony Stations during February and March to review procedures and help where possible.

Out best wishes go out to **Cpl 'Stu' Allister** and family now enjoying life to the full in Germany, also **Sig Steve 'George Michael' Fenn** who goes on his AIPT Course in February, hit the heights!

ROVER GROUP GREEN TEAM

Rover Gp's Christmas present this year from the Londonderry PIRA was a nail bomb. On 23 December whilst travelling along the Letterkenny Road, the bomb, which had been placed on a wall by the roadside, exploded just behind the rear vehicle of the mobile causing extensive damage to a following taxi and injuring the three civilian occupants. No-one from the patrol was injured. **Cpl Andy Speight RPC** sent Comms Tp's first (and thankfully last) contact report of 1987.

SQUADRON HOCKEY TEAM
Report by Cpl Pete Schollick

Having arrived in Londonderry near the end of the last hockey season, I was able to join the team in time to celebrate the achievements of becoming runners-up of the Minor Units League, and also runners-up of the Northern Ireland Minor Units Six-a-Side competition.

With the start of a new season we found ourselves with a well established team, brought and held together by our Skipper come Chairman, Trainer, Coach and general organiser, **SSgt (YofS) Dave 'everything stops for hockey' Leaning**. From the beginning to half way through the season we found the team going from strength to strength following in the footsteps of Liverpool FC with a 100% record. This was until we met 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn where the game ended in a goalless draw. I, **Cpl Pete 'what position do I play this time?' Schollick** was dropped for that game, due to work commitments. However, re-instated back in the team, we carried on with our winning streak. (I had to get that one in!)

The first taste of glory and success came to us in the Northern Ireland Minor Units Cup. After the eliminating rounds, we found ourselves in the Grand Final against none other than 233 Sig Sqn. Having beaten (annihilated) 233 Sig Sqn in a league match the week before with a scratch team, full of confidence, we beat them again 2—0 to win the cup and qualify for the quarter finals of the Army Cup. Goal scorers were **Bert McGerty** (ex RSM 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn) and **Sgt Ian Drinkall**.

In preparation for the quarter finals, it was decided between the Skipper and **WO2 (Supt Clk) Peter Harrison RAOC**, to play a difficult league fixture. What could be more difficult than playing away to the ultimate in Northern Ireland hockey—Lisburn Garrison! This game turned out to be easier than expected and resulted in a 3—0 victory for us, goal scorers were **SSgt (YofS) Dave Leaning, WO2 (YofS) Ron Coburn** and **Mr Bert McGerty**.

Our latest game was the Army Quarter Finals against Depot RCT. The weather could not have been worse. Our Chairman of the Supporters Club, (sorry Chairwoman), **Mrs Wendy Leaning**, and other members of the Squadron looked as though they had just swum up the River Foyle to stand on the side lines and shout words of encouragement, which were very much appreciated. A game we wanted to end early because of the weather conditions, but which went into extra time—score 0—0. After extra time it was still 0—0 and even after a session of penalty flicks the game had not been decided. In the last session of penalty flicks **SSgt Benny Bennett** swam across the pitch to take his penalty flick while the rest of us carried on treading water, **Benny** took the flick and the semi-submerged ball just rolled towards the keeper, luckily, the goalkeeper missed it completely and the goal was allowed. The last shot of the game was to come from **SSgt (YofS) Dave Leaning**, if he scored from the penalty shot we would win the match and go through to the semi-finals. And he did!

SKI NOTES
Report by 2Lt S. G. Hutchinson

It was with much regret that we departed the sunny delights of Londonderry for the wintry cold of Austria. Our team of intrepid travellers consisted of: **2Lt Hutchinson, Sgt 'I've got bigger skis than anyone else' Gallimore, Cpls 'Dob' Jackson, 'I finally made it down' Brown, LCpls 'nice jumper' Ruddock, 'Jock' Duncan** and **Sig 'Pirmin' McNeilly**.

After 40 hours travel in a mini-bus we finally made it to Galtur, Austria. With only 10 days grace until the actual competition started, training had to commence immediately and this meant 0800 hrs the morning after our arrival. We were under no illusions about our chances of winning any of the major disciplines, however we were all determined to enjoy and learn from the experience.

Competition week was on us sooner that we expected, the first race being the seeding Giant Slalom. Tensions were running high as we left the apartment for the slopes. However, all inhibitions were surpassed having reached the top of the piste. All preparations complete, it was now up to the individual and 'Father Piste', as **Cpl Brown** put it.

Overall the seeding of the Giant Slalom was our best result, a pity it did not count for anything. Our main aim in life was to beat 211 Sig Sqn, as it turned out, by the end of the competition they beat us by a reasonable margin. However given more training next year we will have a team capable of winning Best Overall Minor Unit.

Considering the inexperience of the team there were some star performances on and off the piste. **LCpl Ruddock** certainly showed people that given the time and training he could develop into an outstanding skier, by his performance on the Downhill. **Cpl Jackson** gained the reputation of being the madman of the team and what he lacked in technique he made up for in sheer bravery. Don't worry **Cpl Brown**, I'm sure it will all work out alright next year.

With the competition over it was time to set off back to Londonderry, or as **Sgt Gallimore** put it 'Londonderry and Galtur are just not compatible'. So with a last goodbye to Father Piste we left to begin our homeward journey.

Overall everyone learnt a great deal from the experience, if nothing else how it could be improved in following years. At least we didn't return empty handed, winning the UKLF Minor Unit Championships. Well done lads and the mini-bus!

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39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP
SYSCON/COMMCEN

Since our last report there have been many comings and goings, which hopefully should now be at an end. Firstly we would like to welcome **LCpls Max Tait, Pat Downing, 'Scouse' Howard** and **Sig 'George' Green** to 39 Inf Bde and in particular to Syscon/Commcen and farewells to **SSgt (YofS) Dai Jones** to 16 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Delboy' Chilvers** to 633 Sig Tp, **'Nice Dress' Swithenbank** to 633 Sig Tp, **Cpl (Nearly Sgt) Fluck** to RLD Ballykinler and **LCpl 'Scouse' Cahill** to civvy street.

Many thanks for your work here. Has anybody informed the YofS that 16 Sig Regt does not have a cookhouse as good as RUC Castlereagh? Also special thanks to **Cpl Fluck** for his contributions on the football field, particularly at Kinnegar, even if his talents were seen only off the field!

New frontiers have been reached in Syscon with DTgs now taking on shifts alongside the overworked RTGs, but attention, this does not mean that they get the same pay (sorry **LCpl Chris Adams**). The Christmas and New Year periods were quiet and congratulations go to A&B shifts for stagging on during those days.

The Commcen has once again settled down under the watchful eye of **Sgt Derrick Styles**; good luck on your RSSSC in sunny Catterick. **Cpl 'Taff' Burdge** will now be cracking the whip when his alarm clock allows him to!

Back to more social events and congratulations to our five-a-side squad on winning the unit competition beating the Brigade clerks 6—2 in the final.

RADIO SECTION

Things that stand out in recent weeks are the Comms trials in West Belfast and in the areas of Larne and Camlough. Most members of the section have been involved with some interesting results.

Heli-tele had a recent, rare, winter outing much to the amazement of those concerned—especially as it was on Boxing Day. The crew consisted of **Cpl 'Cal' Hewitt** assisted by **LCpls Jon Chivers** and **Norman Mayled**. After encountering several equipment problems, the detachment was all set up, ready to go when this was pre-empted by the order to pack up and go home!

The section would like to thank **LCpls Potts** and **Meston** for arriving and making the EOD commitment much easier to man.

The inter-troop quiz again proved its worth and just showed again that our educated section could come up trumps. The winning team consisted of **Capt 'Stickies' Renfrey, Cpls Ferris, Hewitt** and **Sig Hallett.**

TM TROOP

Just as things looked as though they might settle down, MOD decided to reform 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The ball labelled 'Long Term Tech Troop Personnel Planning' was promptly put into touch and a new one without a label or definite shape appeared for a whole new ball game.

First to make an impression this year has been **LCpl 'Murph' Murphy** who, whilst returning from a task in the early hours on an icy morning, quote 'Honest I was only doing 10mph', managed to hit a large patch of ice. Two black cows lurking nearby decided to attack the vehicle but definitely took the wrong course of action. Hence the name **LCpl 'Moo'phy** ever since (orders for Topside will be taken on Ext . . .).

Also **Cpl 'Skid Solo' Crook** decided to ask a second opinion on his driving standards; this wasn't too complimentary so he asked for a third—he's now looking for someone with strong nerves to give him a fourth!

Cpl 'Taff' Parry is working on a patent for a new antenna system, this uses only a coax and isn't too successful but he's sticking with it.

Whilst installing the intercomms and telephones at the new PVCP **LCpls 'Mac' McGowen** and **Tim Jones** with **Sig Ryan** and **Sutton** were hard at work sitting in a portacabin when there was a bang on the roof. Fearing the worst, the one holding the lowest card in his hand was sent to investigate—just in time to stop the Sappers from lifting it up and swinging it into a new position!

Sig Mick Ryan had another close call whilst installing a line across the railway at the same time as the Belfast-Dublin train—he was last seen scarpering down the line only just ahead of the engine.

The troop Christmas function was organised by the TE Techs and thanks must go to **Sgts 'Dinkey' Tatman** and **'Bricks' Buckingham** and the lads for all their hard work in organising an excellent function. The entertainment was also first class, especially the **Benny Hill** impression—Well done Sir!

GOODBYES

A high turnover means we have to say farewell to several old hands, thanks for all your hard work and best wishes for the future to **Sgt 'Dinkey' Tatman** in 4 Div, **Cpl 'Barmy' Boon** in 13 Sig Regt, **Cpl Steve** and **Sue Coulson** in 212 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Dare 'Frogs' Covey, Karen** and **Leanne** in 22 Sig Regt and **LCpl 'Willie' Morgan** in civvy street.

HELLOS

Welcome to **Sgt Dave Harris** and **Emma, SSgt Mick Couston, LCpls Vince McNaught** and **Andy Sinclair**—we hope you enjoy your tour in the Province.

RQMS DEPARTMENT

The department is busy with the usual stores business and preparing for the MOD Audit which has been put back until April which pleased all of those concerned as a lot of effort had been put in to be ready for January.

In the near future, the department will be fairly busy. **LCpl 'Billy' Smith** will be out checking all the Brinton sites with a member of TM Tp. **LCpl 'Trev the Bev' Ellis** will be finishing the Cougar checks. **Cpl Morton** is wondering who is going to take over the accommodation stores (lucky chap). **Sgt John Brown** and **LCpl Shane Ackers** are busy with Clansman (yes, we still use Clansman in the Province).

Mentions must go to our RAOC **Sgt Martin Stevens** (hold on a minute—where is he?—Oh, he's on leave!) and, last but not least, to the Boss **WO2 (RQMS) Fred Payet** (otherwise known as 12½ stone of Airborne fury).

SHQ

The Squadron Headquarters is still ticking over with no major crises over the Christmas and New Year holidays—actually after the Christmas merry-go-round it is a relief to be working through a rather subdued January. Having said that, SHQ and RQMS departments combined to say farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Joe Haldane** on Friday 22 January 1988. **Joe** is leaving the army after 22 years and will be missed by all who know him. At the function, the OC made a speech and presentation, as did **Joe**, and all thought that was it when this pseudo Irish accent boomed across the room **'Joe Haldane**, this is your life' and wasn't it just. It really is amazing just how much information can be gleaned from a soldier's documents and a wife's memory—needless to say **Joe** wished for the proverbial hole in the floor in which to disappear; he was very grateful for the spare key to his army suitcase, still labelled **AT Haldane**—the suitcase was lost in the Retreat from Mons.

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THE GENERALS' GRADUATION

Major General G. R. Oehlers CB

Graduated:
62 Apprentice Tradesmen
33 Junior Leaders
on Friday 5th June 1987

Major General R. Benbow CB

Graduated:
18 Apprentice Tradesmen
30 Junior Leaders
on Friday 19th December 1986

THEMES

Comradeship & Loyalty

Commitment

Esprit de Corps

Professionalism

Major General P. D. Alexander MBE

Graduated:
207 Apprentice Tradesmen
67 Junior Leaders
on Friday 1st August 1986

STATISTICS

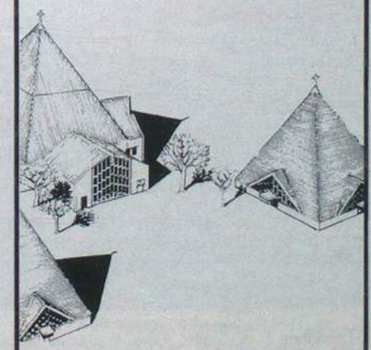
464 Apprentice Tradesmen

235 Junior Leaders

5 Graduation Parades

Major General C. N. Last OBE

Graduated:
22 Apprentice Tradesmen
30 Junior Leaders
on Friday 18th December 1987



Major General I. O. J. Sprackling OBE

Graduated:
155 Apprentice Tradesmen
75 Junior Leaders
on Friday 31st July 1987

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

FORMED—
THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR JUNIOR MILITARY ARCHERY

Elsewhere in this issue we feature an article relating to the formation of a centre of excellence for junior military archery. As we go to press the word is out—Arrowgate Archers have arrived on the National Scene.

Pictured in College sweaters, the Elite Squad were runners up to Canterbury College in the British Schools Championships in late January.

The tracksuit brigade represent the 24 apprentices and junior leaders now being coached (by the mature looking gentlemen) to replace the Elite Squad when they graduate mid year.

With a tour to Cyprus with St Dunstan's Service College for the Blind on the cards following the Combined Services Championships in March, The Army Junior Champions, 'Arrowgate', have their sights firmly set on gold for the summer ahead.

RAWSON SQUADRON
WINTER TERM 1987

Rawson Squadron has enjoyed an energetic and hectic term, although outright success in major competitions has eluded us. This was rectified, however, by the Squadron Rabbits League Football Team, which under the enthusiastic and skilful coaching of **Sgt 'Zach' Wright** became a force to be reckoned with, both inside the College as well as in the local league.

The overall standard remains high and was evident in this term's Graduates. Of the 11 recruits who arrived in January 1986 to join other new boys, like the OC, **Maj Norman Ladds** and the SSM, **WO2 Gordon Townsley**, nine graduated in December. Six of them won 10 of the 15 Graduation Prizes available. Some feat. The winners are congratulated and shown below:

AT SSM M. P. Cox
Telegraphist Wing Education Prize and the Master of Signals' Award for the Best All Round Apprentice Tradesman.

AT Sgt J. N. Meadows
Director of Army Training's Award for Military Training.

AT Sgt S. L. Hobson
Sports Prize and Borough of Harrogate Prize for Service to the Community.

AT LCpl P. J. Dapprich
Technician Wing Education Prize. Royal Signals Corps Committee Prize for the Best Technician and the Signal Officer-in-Chief's Prize for the most outstanding tradesman.

AT LCpl S. W. Crowther
The Business and Technician Education Council Prize for Technical Progress.

AT LCpl L. A. Malin
The Director of Army Education Prize

PERMANENT STAFF

By the time this goes to print, Alpha Troop Sergeant **'Steve' Stevenson** will have packed his bags and departed for 22 Sig Regt and the delights of BAOR. We wish to thank him for all his efforts and wish him well in the future. We hope that **Sgt Bob Witherstone** will also have recovered from his drill course which he said he enjoyed immensely.

Rawson Squadron Intake 86A
Back Row: AT LCpls P. J. Dapprich, S. W. Crowther, L. A. Malin, AT A. D. James, AT Cpl P. N. Demain and AT P. M. Brannon
Front Row: AT Sgt J. N. Meadows, WO2 (SSM) G. G. Townsley, Maj N. E. Ladds, AT SSM M P. Cox and AT Sgt S. L. Hobson

RECRUIT TROOP
(A newcomer's view)

87C formed up in early September, with an initial line up of 72 fairly long haired and 'interestingly' dressed recruits. They were introduced to their new guide and mentor **Sgt Martin Archer**, a veteran of the 87B campaign, and another newcomer, **Lt Guy Bewsher**. During the following few weeks the troop followed the usual BRT routine but never fully recovered from the shock of PT.

As with all such experiences each member of the troop reached new lows in depression and almost everybody must have thought about giving up. Only a few did. Despite everything hovever, **Rct Deacon** still managed to get a smile from everybody with his perceptive impressions of College personalities.

Sport was not something that the troop excelled at. High hopes were raised when the Inter Recruit troop competition began, only to be dashed repeatedly. Despite coming last in the rugby competition **Rcts Williams, Graves, Hynard, Young** and **Thompson** were rapidly elevated to the College squad. We did somewhat better at football coming second and **Rcts Maxwell** and **MacIntosh** were selected for the College squad. Hockey was again a disappointment except for **Rcts Talbot** and **Buchan** who also gained College status. In the Swimming competition we thought we had a chance. However, two days before the event, our prize swimmer, **Rct Williams**, was injured playing rugby and **Rct Foster** badly injured his arm on the first race. All hopes of an easy victory were dashed as we slipped back to third equal.

Towards the end of term the Troop had the opportunity to put into practice all its military training in a field exercise at Catterick. The weather was bad with heavy mist, and deteriorated overnight, raining extremely heavily. Under these conditions some of the weaker, less inspiring characters began to shine and had to be rapidly re assessed—for the better. About the only people who seemed to enjoy it were the PS. **Lt Bewsher** kept telling us it was good character building stuff. Everything that is unpleasant in the Army seems to be 'character building'!

Suddenly it was all over. Our Pass Off Parade was upon us. It hardly seemed a moment since we had arrived wide-eyed and clueless at the College, but 1,000 guests had arrived to see us and see how our hard work throughout the term had paid off. Suddenly those 15 weeks, although the hardest of our lives, were also the most worthwhile.

Which way? Not lost again!

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING—SCOTLAND
Sgt John Gil

This year, being no different from the previous 14, we have based ourselves once again in the Spey Valley in Scotland for External Leadership training; nine weeks of Cold Comfort. The snow conditions were poor for the first two weeks and we were unable to do any nordic skiing. So it's out of the bag with that ever popular standby—'Orienteering'. The venues we use are Anagach Wood and the Queen's Forest, both areas provide an interesting challenge to the junior soldiers. There are lots of different *roots* in the forest and most runners *branched* off on their own, *leafing* the others behind. The courses were hard and *knotty* and tended to *sap* the strength, but all in all every one had a *treemendous* time. Some lads didn't find any controls, obviously *barking* up the wrong tree and finally having to *bough* to the fact that they were lost!

Snow and Ice craft is a popular activity and can be very rewarding. The venue for the two days is the Cairngorm Mountain range which is reknowned for its bad weather. Extra equipment issued to the students includes: ice axes, crampons, dachstein mitts, snow saws, snow shovels and the infamous SMGs (Special Mountaineering Goggles). They practise ice axes arresting drills on steep snow slopes and climbing on snow and ice using axes self-arrest practice, going down the slope tangled up together most of the time. **AT Fishwick** managed to wear a different pair of boots each day of the week and spent most of the time falling over. The young men get a chance to practice their winter navigation when they climb such 'popular' mountains as Cairngorm and Ben Macdui; the views from which leave most of them speechless (mainly because their lips are frozen together!). They also learn the art of winter survival constructing emergency snow shelters, building an igloo or digging a snowhole. **ATs Woodland** and **Tisdell** have great potential in the construction business and both passed their igloo building trade-board whilst in Scotland. They are thinking of setting up on their own during the summer months!

There is a serious side of this training and apart from the physical aspect, the students are made aware of mountain weather, cold weather injuries, winter mountain hazards and the importance of teamwork in this type of environment. In no time at all, the conditions can change and one can find oneself on dangerous ground with a blizzard blowing up and a chill factor of $-20°C$.

Most of the 400 plus young men who come to Scotland for the season enjoy the downhill skiing aspect most of all. They are given basic instruction which for the majority of the non-skiers is sufficient for them to enjoy an upright position for much of the one day we devote to this activity. For the ATs it is a good week out of the classroom and away from barracks getting some fresh air in their lungs and frost nip on fingers and toes! At the time of writing snow conditions are improving and there are another six weeks to go.

Not just frozen lips—frozen drink as well!

ORIENTEERING 1987

A resumé by SSgt Mike Lumgair

The year started with success on the 4th April at the Group 5 Championships. The team of **Capt (now Maj) Bob Etherton, WO2 QMSI (the human dynamo) Norman Jones** and **SSgt Mike Lumgair** won the Minor Unit trophy and qualified for the UKLF championships. The Junior team also ran and **AT Cpl Sharp** (now at 2 Div) was overall 2nd and U19 Winner; **QMSI Jones** outright winner and **Maj Etherton** 3rd and also taking the veteran prize—a leather cover for his pension book!

All the College orienteers, adult and junior, gain much of their expertise and training by attending civilian events at weekends in the North East. In May the junior team ran against our local Aire Club for the Owl trophy. Two members of Aire run for the junior England Squad so they had a pretty strong team. However, fitness and speed gave our juniors the edge and the Owl was taken back to the College again.

In September **QMSI Jones** ran for the Army in the Combined Services Competition earning himself another set of Army Colours.

The next major military team event was the Royal Signals (UK) Championships at the end of October. We managed a good turnout from the College with 2 adult, 3 junior and a ladies guest team. It was a 2 day event; long course on the first day and the usual relays on the second. At the end of the first day the PS 'B' team was leading the Minor Unit field by 40 minutes and the ladies, **Mrs Maureen Lumgair, Mrs Sue Jones** and **Lt Jane Liptrott**, were in 3rd place. The junior teams were having a slight problem as the 'C' team, **AT Lyne, JL Whitehead** and **AT Cpl Anderson**, who were deemed by **SSgt Lumgair** as the best, were in fact in 2nd place behind **AT Herring, AT Hunt** and **AT LCpl Crowther**. It was going to be a needle race between these teams in the relays.

Day two and a different map. A lot of close forest, very steep in places and the course planner had deliberately moved the Brecon Beacons from Wales and placed them in the middle of the course! First away for the PS was **SSgt Lumgair** and he made it round in a cracking time to hand over to **Maj Etherton**. He added a few minutes onto the total because he forgot to punch at the manned control and had to run back up the Beacons again (well, stagger up!). **QMSI Jones** ate his way through the forest, ran through hills, and scorched his way along the tracks.

At the end of the day everyone had done well and we cleaned up quite a few medals. The junior 'C' team won their competition and **AT Hunt** became Junior Corps Champion. The ladies won the relay and came second overall for the 2 days and the PS team won the Minor Unit trophy.

Maj Bob Etherton trying to push QMSI Norman Jones over the line. Capt Simon Green (Corps 'O' Secretary) suspects cheating!

The last event of the year was the Army Night Championship at Mychett near Aldershot. Our's was the only unit to enter a junior team so we consequently won that class. The PS team was the 3rd Minor Unit, but the real success goes to the ladies, **Capt Sarah Harris** 1st, **Lt Jane Liptrott** 2nd who won the WRAC trophy between them. Well done ladies. We hope to do even better in 1988.

And finally two more success stories:

THE ARMY APPRENTICES FOOTBALL CUP FINAL

This year the Army Apprentices Cup took a new form in an inter College competition which ended with a needle match between Princess Marina College Arborfield and Harrogate. The play was most exciting swinging from one goal to the other. Harrogate scored first followed immediately by an equiliser, we scored again but Arborfield were not to be put off and equilised again, but, with 15 minutes to go Harrogate scored the final goal and held off Arborfield's determined siege to win with a final score of Harrogate 3 Princess Marina College 2. The Harrogate scorers being **AT Cpls Griffiths, Campbell** and **Lloyd**.

The Apprentices Cup Team

Back Row L to R: Cpl Foster (Asst Coach), Sgt Wright (Asst Coach), AT Cpl Lloyd, AT Cpl Faramus, AT Campbell, AT Carmen, AT LCpl Griffiths, AT Oaks, AT Ratcliffe and SSI Guy (Coach)

Front Row L to R: AT Stephenson, AT Cpl Barnett, AT Sgt Powell, SMI Kelly (Manager), AT SSM Layland, AT Sgt Boase and JL LCpl Ferrie

VICTORY AT VIKING LOPE

Two weeks at Sjusjoen in Norway has produced a very strong Nordic Ski race team for the College. The four Junior Leaders from Bradley Squadron attended Ex Viking Lope, which is a novice ski training course held under the auspices of BOBC Norway. Their trainer, **Cpl Bill Agnew**, one of our gymnasium staff, went along to help train the team and make sure none of them were carried off by any blond haired blue eyed Viking female beauties!

All of them did train very hard and snow conditions were good. Some pre season fitness work and earlier help from 22 Sig Regt paid off as did good advice on waxing techniques.

Race day and a field of some 40 Servicemen and women; starting in pairs at 30 second intervals. **JL James** set off first with the handicap of a broken hand (excuse the pun!). The course was perfect and the team had made the right choice of wax. It was sometime before all the results were collated but an outright win by 16 places for the College team. **JL Ward** came first overall and **JL Barnett** 4th overall and won first junior, with **JL LCpl James** in 5th place. In fact the team took 5 of the first 8 places.

Watch out Army Ski (Nordic) Championships in Scotland, our Junior Leaders are in with more than a chance of winning!

Just to show the College does do things not related to snow and mountains:

ARROWGATE ARCHERS ARRIVE AND ACHIEVE AMAZING AWARDS

Archery is a relatively 'new' sport to the College. Its birth here came some 9 months' ago with the arrival of the Secretary of Army Archery, **Maj Mike Fisher**. It is mainly due to his determined efforts that the sport enjoys the success and popularity that it does today. It is also conducted as a hobby within the College. Despite the arguments that 'Agincourt and Crecy were over 500 years ago and that we really do have the Gunners now', Harrogate found itself forming a strong band of merry men (as yet no Maid Marion!), for this fast growing sport. Arrowgate Archers were established in early September last year. In late November, these young Robin Hoods, about 24, represented the College, Royal Signals and North East District at the Junior Army Indoor Championships at Bovington. With the exception of 3rd place in the team award, 'Arrowgate' returned home triumphant. The Gaygan Shield (Army Junior Service Team) has arrived and we now boast not only Army Indoor Junior Champion but 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th best archers at this level of ASCB recognised sport. In January the team went on to come 2nd in the British National Junior Championships losing to the favourites by the narrowest of margins.

Training and participation in civilian tournaments now continues in preparation for the Combined Services Championships at RAF Cosford at the end of March. As Harold said 'Keep your eye on that arrow'!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/CHARITY WORK IN 1987

Capt C. D. Rose RAEC

'The British Army is an Army of the People'. There is a firm belief in this maxim at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. Thus the Apprentice Tradesman and Junior Leaders are strongly encouraged to become involved in their own squadron's favourite charity or community project, which they have willingly done throughout the year. Far more, therefore, goes on than at first meets the eye. In addition to the mass participation Summer fete held this year and the now traditional Dial-a-Ride sponsored long distance cycling event (successful at the second attempt) which were covered in the local press, squadrons have continued their good works either singly or, on occasion, in concert.

Bradley Sqn has continued its work in aid of BLESMA. The major fund raising event being their sponsored swim held on 7 March 1987 at which £596.19 was raised for the charity. The squadron also provided personnel for a flag day in Harrogate and hosted 50 ex-servicemen from BLESMA at the June graduation parade. In November the squadron promoted sales of the charity's Christmas draw tickets. Local links were also maintained by assisting wheelchair bound patients of the Royal Bath Hospital around the shops in December and by hosting 50 senior citizens from Harrogate Citizen's Guild of Help to Christmas dinner and the College carol service. Members of the Squadron also visited local children's homes after the College harvest festival distributing sweets bought for the occasion from money raised in the squadron.

Rawson Sqn was responsible for co-ordinating the College fete but was also active in support of various charities both local and national, notably the Harrogate Branch of Arthritis Care and the Harrogate Area Bridleways Association. Money was also raised for the 227 Sig Sqn Ferry Disaster Appeal, the Army Benevolent Fund and the RNLI during the summer term. In the winter term the squadron was active in support of the BSAD Wheelchair Marathon, Army Benevolent Fund and Dr Barnardo's flag days as well as continued involvement with Arthritis Care.

Scott Sqn's major contribution to charity was the organisation of the Penny Pot Road Run which despite poor weather raised in excess of £1,200 and appears destined to become an annual event. The squadron has had a special interest in Leadhall Grange, a home for physically and mentally handicapped children in Harrogate, but has also supported Blandford Charities, the Army Benevolent Fund and Spofforth Hall Cheshire Home.

Penney Sqn undertakes community service in the form of assistance to the Harrogate Home Help Association (gardening, painting and decorating), the Harrogate League of Friends and Bramhope School (National Children's Homes) and the Harrogate Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. It has also contributed to the RNLI and, following their mission to the College, to the Franciscan Monks. Teams from the squadron also competed in various sponsored events including the Menwith Hill Volksmarch and Penny Pot Road Run.

Standing L to R: AT Cruickshank, JL Massey, AT Woodland, AT LCpl Heathcote, Lt Bewsher (Asst Coach), AT Burke (Jnr Army Indoor Champion 1987), Maj M. S. Fisher (Sports Manager and Squad Captain), AT Prince, AT LCpl Bargna, JL Evans and JL LCpl Overal

Kneeling: AT LCpl Jolley, AT Evans, AT SSM Besant and AT Townsend

The enthusiasm and effort put in by the Apprentice Tradesmen and Junior Leaders, despite their already heavy College and Squadron commitments, augurs well for the future. Activities for 1988 will undoubtedly be at the same high level.

A couple of examples of the collective and individual effort put into this work are given below.

PENNY POT PUSH POWER

Sunday 22 November and some 25 young people, members of the Senior Youth Club, Apprentices and Junior Leaders, lined up at 1100 hrs under starters orders. **Mr Keith Thomas** had a word about the route, the rules and what to do in case of a blow-out on an Asda shopping trolley. From the above photo it appears that he also conducted two verses of Rule Britannia before hurling himself from the on-rush of trollies!

Twice round the BFT course as fast as the pushers could run and without spilling the passenger. It was hard work but good fun, with the added motivation that each pair were being sponsored for a local charity.

There is no record of who was first or last but the event raised £561.05 for the Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied Club here in Harrogate. Our sincere thanks to all the 'pushers and pushed' and special thanks to Asda Supermarket for the loan of the super-charged trollies and also **AT Sgt Steve Hobson** whose idea it was and who has worked hard as a member of the Youth Club.

The start of the Sponsored Supermarket Trolley Push. Mr Keith Thomas is conducting!

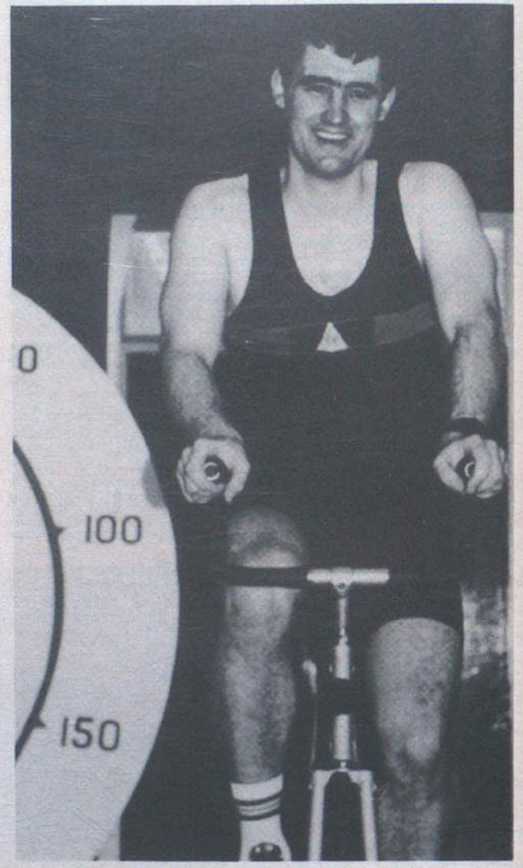
COLLEGE CYCLIST'S WORLD RECORD

Sgt Bob Young, an instructor in Tech Wing, established a new 12 hour roller cycle world record when he completed 312.751 miles in the assigned time, averaging 26mph. He broke the previous record, set by **D. M. Jinks** at Porthcawl in 1978, by a cracking margin of over 70 miles!

23 January is a Saturday that will be imprinted on **Sgt Young**'s mind for a long time; and from his comments later, it will be imprinted on his back-side also!

It started at 0800 hrs after officials had checked the equipment and timing and recording procedures. During the hours, visitors signed a book and recorded their visit. **Capt (Retd) Alan Green**, who organised the event and who runs the cycling hobby was there the whole time to give advice and encouragement and display on an OHP the progress throughout the day. **Miss Melissa Harrison, Sgt Young**'s fiancée was also there giving loving and tender support. As a matter of interest, **Sgt Young** is an ex apprentice from the College and a previous member of the cycling hobby. It was from this foundation and **Sgt Young**'s current form and strength that he and **Alan Green** felt confident of a successful attempt on the record. At the 9 hour 9 minute point, the existing record was passed and at the 11th hour, hundreds of spectators began to crowd into the small gymnasium. At about 1930 hrs, it was apparent that he could make the magic 500km distance and as the clock moved on **Sgt Young** sprinted for the last 10 minutes. He was pushing out a speed of 60kmh as the crowd cheered him through the 12 hour point and 503km. The atmosphere was electric.

Through sponsorship **Sgt Young** hopes to raise at least £1,000 for charity. At the time of writing the support has been super and that target should be overtaken. **Sgt Young** and **Melissa** were married at Kingswinford on Saturday 30 January; another Saturday that will be imprinted on his mind!



Sgt Bob Young on his trusty machine

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

246 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON
(48 GURKHA INF BDE)

EXERCISE CHHOTO JANKARI I
PERSONALITIES

Chief Instructor	**Lt Peter Holliday**
Camp Commander	**Lt (QGO) Narbahadur Gurung**
Camp SSM	**WO2 Udaichandra Gurung**
SQMS	**Sgt Tekparsad Limbu**
Cook	**Cpl Minbahadur Gurung**

Ex Chhoto Jankari I roughly translated means short introduction, was held on Ping Chau Island from 5-9 October 1987. Ping Chau is situated 10km NE of Hong Kong and only 2km from mainland China. This adventure training exercise was the first to be held by 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn. After a lot of planning by **Lt Peter Holliday** and leg work by **SSgt (YofS) Ken Jones** the first phase set off for Wong Shek Pier.

At the Pier we were met by an RPL of 414 Maritime Tp. After loading what we thought was a week's supply of drink, suntan lotion, fuel and food on to the RPL, we departed for Ping Chau.

It was obvious after four days that the planning was not 100% as we were running dangerously short of essential rations! Being excellent communicators, even under stress, we managed to get a message to the mainland and the very next day a police launch arrived with a resupply.

Activities were run concurrently with sections rotating from activities on a day to day basis.

CANOEING
Instructors **Cpl Machindrabahadur Rai**
LCpl Ramkumar Rai

Canoeing was one of the more strenuous exercises with **Cpl Mac** and **LCpl Ram** demonstrating rolls, deep water H&T and rescue drills in the morning. After lunch everybody set off to paddle the 10km around Ping Chau.

Sig Tulsiray Rai demonstrating balancing in shallow water

ROCK CLIMBING
Instructors **Cpl Indrabahadur Gurung**
Assistant Lt Peter Holliday

Ping Chau yet again offered an ideal opportunity for another activity. Regardless of head for heights it was a case of, off you go. If you didn't like abseiling that was unlucky, because it was your only route down. Plenty of supervision was at hand and low altitude training was done ascending to great heights.

Sig Nirmal traversing 15in up

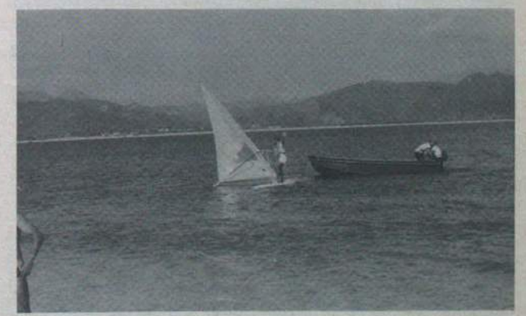
SNORKELING

On Wednesday 14 October **Col M. T. Cook**, Dep Comd 48 Gurkha Inf Bde and the OC **Maj T. E. M. Richardson** visited the Island. Both gave a practical demonstration of snorkeling. **Cpl Bhimparsad Gurung** found to his distaste that although snorkels were issued, they don't allow you to breath 6ft under. Thanks must go to all divers who helped supplement our rations with fresh crabs. We wish the local fisherman more success with their lobster pots, now that we have departed.

WINDSURFING

Sgt Bruce Barnes taught windsurfing with varying results. There was plenty of praise for all who took part since as with all activities only six hours were allocated. However, windsurfing did give the safety boat handlers a chance to earn their money, rescuing would-be windsurfers from the China coast line.

Both weeks training programmes were identical, so Monday 12, being the change over period for sections, gave the Instructors a rest period. **Maj (QM) Alan Davis**, Skipper of East Wind, on his rest day gladly agreed to take us to Tap Mun for a Chinese meal. An excellent excursion and meal was had by all. Both weeks training went smoothly, with most members trying to perfect activities with only six hours tuition. All who attended wish to extend their thanks to **Lt Peter Holliday, Cpl Minbahadur**, the cook and of course the Barman throughout, **Cpl Yambir Gurung**.



Sgt B. J. Limbu after being rescued, setting off again, this time to ram his rescuers

247 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

THE SIGNALMAN GREEN APPEAL OR PARACHUTING FOR CHARITY

On 13 August (Yes, 13 — but a Thursday not a Friday) 10 members of 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn jumped out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft at 2,200ft and attempted to land safely on the ground below. This was the Squadron's answer to the appeal by the CO 30 Sig Regt Lt Col Keith Butler, to raise funds on behalf of **Sig Green** who is paralysed as a result of a sports accident. **Capt (TOT) I. D. 'Taff' Hope** and **SSgt John Bathe** hatched this plot so as to reduce the strength of the Squadron! (or so it was rumoured).

It started early in July, as soon as we received the appeal. The response to the request for volunteers for this venture was extremely gratifying. It was decided that all the participants had to be 'first timers', and that helped to cut down the numbers. **SSgt Matt Patrick,** the Chief Instructor at the Joint Services Parachute Centre (JSPC) in Borneo Lines, agreed to run a one day course, with a jump at the end of that day, and said he would charge only the base minimum fee as the contribution from himself and his staff. The date was set for 27 July, for 12 people only. The selections were made on a first come basis and the task of finding sponsors began. **WSgt Debbie Gosnell,** unfortuntely, had to drop out for medial reasons a week later and was immediately replaced by **Cpl Mark Vaughan,** shamed into it, we think, by his wife who was one of first to volunteer.

So on 27 July the transport left HMS *Tamar* at 0630 hrs to take the following people to their uncertain future: **Capt (TOT) 'Taff' Hope, SSgt John Bathe, Mrs Pat Bathe, Cpl Mark Vaughan, Mrs Cindy Vaughan, WCpls Helen Gray, Michelle Jenkins** (ASE — PTI ex-10 Sig Regt), **Sharon Stirman, WPte Bea Fyvie, Julie Harbon, Anita Spink** and **Trish Lampon.**

The training was undertaken enthusiastically, if not too expertly, and the instructional staff at the JSPC, notable **Cpl Gary Lai** and **Gdsm Simon Rodger** must be congratulated on keeping their sense of humour throughout a long hot day. Finally we were declared ready and sent to the store to get our kit. Unfortunately the weather wasn't ready—it was too windy, even for experienced parachutists like us. Everyone was extremely disappointed as we drove back to *Tamar* because we knew that it would be very difficult for all of us to get time off together, or even still be in Hong Kong for that matter.

Finally, after quite a few early morning cancellations, 13 August turned out to be the day for 10 of us. We arrived at 0900 hrs for a little refresher training and were raring to go by 1000 hrs. The first stick of three got ready, were checked by the instructors and they were off. The plane circled the airfield twice and then the engine cut out and the first 'Red Devil' was seen climbing out. There was a great cheer from the ground as **Pat Bathe**'s parachute opened and she floated towards us. She had insisted on being first to jump, being too nervous to watch others do it before she did. She landed safely and was soon followed by **Cindy Vaughan** and **Sharon Stirman. Cindy** landed one side of a fence with her canopy on the other side and in her excitement managed to pull the release handle on her reserve chute while on the ground. (The Instructors claimed their crate of beer). The next three were soon in the plane and gone but unfortunately only one, **Anita Spink,** was able to jump before we had to call a halt until later in the day. However **Anita** decided to give us all something to talk about as we sat around waiting. **SSgt Matt Patrick** was shouting himself hoarse giving instructions to **Anita** but without success. She disappeared behind RHQ looking quite nonchalant and unconcerned and, as it turned out, decided to literally drop in on the Officers' Mess for a cup of tea. It seems that she tried to comply with the shouted instructions but her parachute was 'doing its own thing' and she was just able to fend herself off the wall of the Mess and landed in a monsoon drain. Apart from bruised pride she got away with a skinned elbow.

It was 1700 hrs by the time we could start again, with the kind assistance of the Air Traffic Control Staff, who stayed on to enable us to complete the jump. The other three girls now boarded the plane and took off. **Michelle Jenkins** jumped first and landed on the wrong side of the fence, as **Cindy** had done earlier, but safely. **Julie Harbon** was next, she decided that the landing area was too easy to hit so went off about half a mile away, landing in a field. **Helen Gray** didn't want to go as far, she landed on the edge of the trees, on a tree stump and managed to sprain an ankle. **Helen** was going on her Leave Scheme the next day so the YofS was quite happy that she wouldn't be missing any work. The last stick consisted of the three men, **Cpl Mark Vaughan** made a good landing, **SSgt John Bath** made a perfect landing (his opinion) and lastly **Capt 'Taff' Hope** definitely landed (the least said the better). We had done it at last, there were smiling faces everywhere—not only ours, the instructional staff were smiling (probably with relief) and even the few spectators seemed happy. After a few drinks with the JSPC staff we said our farewells and thank yous and set off homeward.

When we counted up the sponsorship money we were delighted to find that it came to HK$16,000. This we hope will help to swell the fund being donated to this unfortunate young family.

Finally the thank yous to everyone who helped us in our efforts: **SSgt Matt Patrick** and his staff for their patience, understanding and dedicated professionalism. BFBS for advertising the cause (even interviewing the TOT). 29 Sqn RCT for supplying us with transport (usually at short notice). All our sponsors for their generous donations. The other members of 247 who gave us every encouragement and support.

TRAILWALKER 87

by Pte Elaine Musgrave WRAC

After many weeks of arduous training in which we had walked virtually all of the trail, the Big Day was upon us. Needless to say it was raining but this didn't dampen our spirits as we were confident that we would complete Trailwalker 87 come rain or shine.

'Trailwalker' is a 100km sponsored walk along the Maclehose Trail. The route of which is along and over most of the hills in Hong Kong. The aim is to complete the 100km in 48 hours with a team of four and to raise money for local charities.

We had two teams of WRAC from 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn entered in the event, with a back up admin team of **Sgts Nick Gibson, Dave Metcalfe, WRAC Ptes Mandy Hewitt** and **Glynis Roberts.** Their support throughout was invaluable.

After both teams checked in at the stats tent we were given identity bracelets (BMH type) and discs to hand in at each check point. Then it was down to the 'serious' business of the day the photographic session.

Our own CO, **Lt Col Neeve** was also on hand to provide encouragement for us and also to enquire about the safety of his sponsorship money.

Then finally we were off. 1200 hrs on Friday 20 November and hopefully we would be finished before 1200 hrs on Sunday. The atmosphere was terrific with all the teams talking and sharing a joke together as they walked along. We were walking on road for the first part of the trail so we were all able to have a gentle start, with our team even jogging in some parts. Once we had reached CP 1 we all felt we had actually started the Trail properly. All the teams were beginning to spread themselves out and it wasn't just a case of following each other. From CP 1 to CP 2 the Trail continued to be easy going. There were a few rough spots though but we were still able to gain some time and so by the time we reached CP 2 we were nearly one and a half hours ahead of the schedule we had set ourselves. Both of our teams were within minutes of each other and everything was going really well. With Team spirits high and even the weather doing its best to clear up, it was a welcome sight at CP 2 to see our back-up team with mugs of tea and loads of (what we started calling our morale boosters) chocolate and biscuits. We knew that we had about six hours walking left at the most before our next scheduled stop for the night at CP 4. We would have to cover most of that in the dark but that didn't worry us because our training had included a night walk over the same stretch of the route. Of our group which included **LCpl Sue Cheshire, Ptes Anne Fair** and **Mandy Jane** our problems started about half way to CP 3, the weather had deteriorated badly with a thick mist hanging around and with only two of our group having torches it was slow going and we had lost some time when we reached CP 3. It was only 2000 hrs and we knew that in another four hours at most (or so we thought) we would be at our overnight camp. But alas things were going too well, because we were ahead of schedule we missed our back-up team and even though we were short of torches and batteries we made the decision to go on rather than wait. It proved to be a bad decision, as our problems just got worse as we continued. The weather deteriorated more as we went along and so did our torches, which we were relying on more and more to see, our pace was getting slower and slower as the terrain became steeper, especially the downhills. We were hanging on for dear life in some parts because you just couldn't see anything and we knew some of the slopes had sheer drops on one side. There were a few sense of humour failures that night through sheer frustration at falling over all the time. Once or twice you can laugh, but it got beyond a joke, but the other girls managed to keep their humour and they kept us going. Thank goodness also that we had done our training thoroughly because we knew where we were all the time so we had the confidence to carry on, albeit slowly. We had one or two hair raising moments when our batteries nearly ran out and if it had not been for the kindness and generosity of fellow Trailwalkers we would definitely have been in serious trouble; to those who helped us we say thank you.

We struggled on and finally made it to CP 4 at 0130 hrs very tired, wet and miserable. We had vowed that if we could reach CP 4 under those circumstances nothing was going to stop us finishing the rest of it. Indeed the experience really pulled our team together. We were met by **Sgts Gibson** and **Metcalfe** who came out with the classic line quote

Left to Right: Back Row: Sgt Gibson, Pte Roberts, Pte Hewitt and Sgt Metcalfe
Middle Row: Ptes Jane, Fair, Musgrave and LCpl Cheshire
Front Row: LCpls King, Chinery, Sgt Littlewood and Cpl Boorman

His Excellency The Governor of Hong Kong Sir David Wilson speaking to the team before the start

'where the hell have you been?' unquote. Later on we found out that it was from sheer relief at seeing us safe that had made him ask us. So after some of the best compo stew I have ever tasted, we collapsed into our sleeping bags for some well deserved sleep. After some 13½ hours walking, we had achieved the biggest hurdle, getting to our overnight stop.

It was surprising how well we all felt the next morning. The dread of waking up with stiff bodies and tiredness soon passed as everyone fought to get dressed in the tent, there were bodies and kit everywhere. It was no surprise to find that it was still raining and misty outside but with dry clothes on and something warm inside us we were ready to start again. Our experience the previous night had not dampened our spirits, indeed it had had the opposite effect so when we set off again we had a good Team spirit that carried us through the whole of that day.

It was now just a case of 'keep going', fortunately the going was easy to start with and we were able to warm up slowly. We all knew that the toughest part of the day would be the last: 'Needle Hill', 'Grassy Hill' and 'Tai Mo Shan', with a long 20km stretch of road to finish. We were all dreading 'Needle Hill' because it was so steep, 'Grassy Hill' because of the long haul up the road to the top and 'Tai Mo Shan' because it's the highest hill in Hong Kong. On 'Needle Hill' we met with our other group and had a little celebration for getting over another hill, there were only two to go now. 'Grassy Hill' took its toll on our legs after all the climbing we had done getting over 'Needle Hill' and so it was a welcome sight to see our CO **Lt Col Neeve** appear out of the mist and walk with us for a while, although he went so fast we could hardly keep up with him. It was very encouraging to know that everyone was willing both the teams on. The last hurdle for us was 'Tai Mo Shan', once we had reached the top we knew then that it was only a question of how long it would take for us to do the last 20km. Although tired, it was good to see our group still in high spirits, in fact we were laughing so much that we could hardly walk. I think it was our way to cope with how tired we were feeling, at this point, knees and ankles were beginning to ache and we looked like the walking wounded with all the tubi grip we were wearing. At our last but one CP we were feeling a bit cold and tired, it had got very misty because we were so high up and so we were pleased to find how much warmer it was down below out of the mist. We had only road now to walk on and we found it really bad, especially for our knees. All the pounding that they had taken over the last day or so was beginning to take effect, we knew though that we were going to have a good rest at the last CP. We had arranged to stop and have some food and rest for at least an hour and then carry on until the end. Stopping at the last CP everyone was very tired and it was here that the back-up team came into their own, giving us encouragement and a laugh and the will to carry on. By this stage **Ptes Anne Fair** and **Mandy Jane** were suffering, they were in agony with every step they took. It was just sheer will and determination to finish that got them through the last 8km or so. It wasn't without a few tears either but just knowing we were so near was enough to keep us going in the dark. Getting to the finish at Perowne Barracks, and hearing our back-up team and our other team cheering us in was the best feeling in the world. We all felt 10ft tall and very proud. We had done it. Nobody told us it was going to be easy but we found Trailwalker very tough. Without the weeks of training beforehand and the support of our back-up team we would never have made it. The sense of achievement we all felt at the finish though was worth it all, especially when we found out how many other military and civilians teams had dropped out, but despite that we vowed that never, never again. (We'll see).

248 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

SECOND SILVER COMMSTAR AWARD PRESENTATION TO ARMY COMMCEN SERIA

On 11 November 1987 **Maj Gen G. D. Johnson OBE, MC,** Major General Brigade of Gurkhas and Commander British Forces Hong Kong visited, the Signal Troop in Brunei to present the Army Commcen Seria with its Second Silver Commstar.

The Queen's Gurkha Signals in Brunei not only manage the Army Commcen but also provide a rear link Troop and a three man detachment assisting the British Army's Training Team Brunei.

The Commcen now boasts 12 Commstar awards of which six are gold, four are bronze and two silver, which shows that over the years a consistently high standard of operating has been maintained by the Gurkha operators.

All members of the Troop wish to thank MGBG for making the presentation and hope that he enjoyed the champagne that followed.

Maj Gen G. D. Johnson MGBG, Lt Col R. C. Couldry Comdt 7 GR with BSO, OC and other members of the Troop

CORPS GOODS

Goods which were sold at RHQ will now be sold from the Museum. Orders/enquiries should be addressed to: Corps Enterprises, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH, or by Telephone (0258) 52581 Ext 2413

Signal Training Centre
Scarborough

The camping season is over for another year. Time for our own internal maintenance and housekeeping.

To begin on the military side, we are now waiting expectantly for our allocation of Triffid and Euromux, so hopefully, our system should be up and running some time during the 1988 season.

November saw us having to say farewell to **Sgt Geoff Baldry**, his wife **Kay** and daughter **Christina. Geoff** is posted to the big city on his promotion to Staff Sergeant. Well done **Geoff**, your unique brand of humour will be sorely missed.

In his place we have **Sgt Granville Llewelyn Lewis (Taff)** and wife **Jenny** and children **Grant, Katherine** and **Zoe**, posted in from 36(E) Sig Regt (V). Welcome to you all and do enjoy your stay in Scarborough.

Once again the 'Jimmy Club' has been doing its bit for our local charity; 'Children with Special Needs', from Seamer Mount Hostel and Woodlands School. Most of the money has been collected during the year in the club by **Mrs Wendy Crossley**, our Bar Lady. A special thanks must go to all our visiting units for being so generous.

Our Christmas Party for the children was a great success and certainly worth all the hard work that the SQMS, **SSgt Norman Crossley, Sgt 'Taff' Lewis** and the staff put in. Just to see the looks of delight on the children's faces was reward enough. It also goes to show how much pull the STC has on the local community; our local JP, **Mr Eddie Pickering**, kindly volunteered to be Santa Claus. Mind you, I think he had a little push from the CO, **Lt Col Tom Cran**!

Our local branches of the Royal Signals Association and the British Korean Veterans Association have also had their Christmas celebrations, so we have been kept busy and well entertained over the festive period. Our own Party, ably organised by **SSgt Norman Crossley** and assisted by **Mr Ken Gibson** and **Mr Syd Steer**, proved to be the biggest and best event for years.

The Lyke Wake Walk over the North York Moors was no problem for **SSgt Crossley**, his brother **Malcolm** and eldest son **Stephen** aged 15, again being sponsored in aid of the Autistic children of Seamer Mount Hostel. They began their hike of 40 miles in the early hours of 28 October 1987 from Ravenscar.

With the help and support of the backup **Dennis Ford**, our civilian driver the three hikers eventually arrived in Osmotherley, completing the walk in 15 hours 27 minutes.

The money collected by **Stephen**'s achievement was a total of £89. Well done **Stephen**, many thanks for all your sterling efforts. This money will be used towards the costs of a further outing for the children of Woodlands in the summer.

Finally on a sad note, the CO **Lt Col Tom Cran** has decided to retire after completing 36 years service. **Col Tom** was duly dined out by all the staff at SSTC. The evening was a tremendous success. The meal being a traditional Yorkshire menu, wi Scarborough Coble Stew, Yorkshire Pud wi onion gravy (eaten traditionally, of course). Followed bi Roast Beef wi all't trimmings, for afters, Old Fashioned Farmhouse Apple Tart wi Wensleydale Cheese 'n' double cream, followed bi that funny brown stuff them foreigners and them folk down South drink (coffee). It were a right treat.

On a more serious note the CO will be sadly missed by all here at Scarborough, not only by the Staff, but by all the Associations and users of the Signal Training Centre. We would like to wish him all the very best for the future.

A group of the 'Seamer Mount Children' and helpers, enjoying the 'Punch and Judy' show (out of camera), given, without fee by local entertainer Andy Bee

Lt Col T. E. B. Cran receiving the money collected by Stephen Crossley

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1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Pictured is the all conquering cross country team of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, fresh from their triumph in the Army Cross Country Championships at Tweeseldown. In a tough hard run match, the Regiment beat its closest rivals, 1 PWO, by 22 points. Highest placed individual was **Sgt Bill Bailey** who came in sixth.

We say all conquering even though the local 7/22 Brigade league has not yet run its course (sorry!), but what a record so far. The team has won the 7 Brigade, 1 Armd Div and BAOR titles on the way to winning the Army title. What is the recipe for success? Well we have got some excellent runners, but that's only the beginning. No man has been dragooned into training, but since the beginning of the season, the team has trained hard every day, including early Saturday and Sunday mornings. For this, credit must go to team captain **WO2 (QMSI) Alex Rodgers** whose leadership has been magnificent. Any wishing to do the same should listen to TV personality Roy Castle . . . 'Dedication is what you need!'

Sig Fennelly receiving the Howett Trophy on behalf of the Regiment from Maj Gen R. H. Swinburn GOC 1 Armd Div. The Trophy is awarded annually to the Unit within the Division with the greatest sport achievements

1 SQUADRON

EAGLE TROOP

The last two months have been quite busy with arrivals, but mainly departures. Despite the overall loss of manpower and the majority of detachments with only one man crews, the troop did extremely well on the first exercise of the year Highland Malt 1. Some rebels put this down to the fact that the Troop OC was away for 10 days, returning for the Sqn Plug-Up (one day) and then vanishing yet again for two weeks Snow Queen. Mind you, the admin side didn't do too well as Node 041 got lost moving into and out of the exercise location, well done **Staff Mills** and **Sgt Weir** respectively.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **SSgt 'Gunny' Mills** and **Sig Boyle** we hope they have a happy tour with the troop.

DEPARTURES

The troop also said farewell to **SSgt (now WO2) 'Taff' Cox, Cpl 'Walter/Veg' Peram, LCpl 'Compo' Compton, Sig 'Zitty' Aitken, Sgt 'Kanecutter' Kitson**, New Zealand Signals, **Cpls 'Errol' Flynn** and **'Beaver' Bowes.**

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Paul Shenton** on passing his RSSSC, also **Cpl 'Twiggs' Twigger** and **Cpl Roy Turner** on their promotion.

The final mention must go to **Sig 'almost RAF' Clarke** on his recent escape bid; 'unlucky', and **Sig 'Snakey' Haines** for ditching his very first vehicle on Ex Highland Malt.

FALCON TROOP

The holiday season has come and gone as have some members of the troop, **Sigs Ashcroft, Heath, LCpl Stewart, Sig Greenhalgh, SSgt Toleman** and **Cpl Glover** have all expressed their extreme disappointment at being posted from Falcon Troop to other less glorious units.

SSgt Tolman will be pleased to know that his replacement **SSgt 'Taff' Taylor** is keeping up the traditions. The question is 'Can Node Command Survive the Abuse Involved?'. **Taff** managed to liven up an otherwise boring road move by parking the four ton Node Command in a stream beside the local golf course. Needless to say the owner wasn't happy. Several fire fighters, a couple of MPs and a pair of Polizei later, no less then three recovery vehicles were converging on the location. The only thing missing when they arrived was the vehicle. How did you get it out **Taff?**

Other new members of the troop are making their mark as well but without quite as much of a splash. **LCpls Young** and **Woolridge** arrived just in time for Ex Highland Malt 1 and are making themselves comfortable in sunny Verden. The few radio relay operators that remain in the troop were surprised, shocked and overjoyed to welcome two new members of their trade just in time for the exercise season. **Sig Gratton** from 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Coles** from 8 Sig Regt are the first of many, we hope, radio relay operators to be posted into the troop.

The final bit of news to grace these pages comes courtesy of **Cpl Barry** and **Claire Raine** who are the recent proud parents of **Joe Raine.** Congratulations from the troop.

HAWK TROOP

November was spent preparing for Ex Highland Malt 4. During this exercise **SSgt Dave Bradshaw** revealed medical talents which had previously gone unnoticed. We are not, however, sure that King Edward cigar ash is an appropriate dressing for a wound. **Cpl 'Shakey' Makin** made his testimonial appearance before leaving us for his RSDCC and then to 8 Sig Regt. **Ian** and **Mandy Makin** will be missed and we wish them all the best for the future.

On the subject of hello's and goodbye's, we say farewell to **LCpl Warren Fegan,** who is now a combat civilian and **Sig Dave Mustoe** who has gone to 2 Inf Div. We welcome **LCpl Neil Swithenbank** and his wife **Sue, LCpl Rob Allward** and his wife **Heike, Sigs Joe Jollands** and **Nelson Beacher.**

Ex Vantage Point passed uneventfully leaving only the difficult business of parties between us and Christmas. Approaching the Squadron party, the Troop held a training session during which **Sig Russ Lock** forgot which planet he was on.

The Troop slowly returned to Verden in January, and in a rather depleted form (manpower wise) deployed on Ex Highland Malt 1 of 1988. We melted our golden blanket award and sold it for this Exercise. **Sgt Wayne Cox** and **LCpl 'Filthy Wilf' Kempton** both failed to pick up this coveted award.

Despite the OC's efforts **LCpl Sher Ali** did not make up for having no Christmas leave by remaining on top of a hill with his det for some peaceful post-Ex leave. By the beginning of February **LCpl Ali** was still not on leave.

KESTREL TROOP

The end of Ex Vantage Point and the disappearance of the Troop OC heralded the start of the festive season. The Squadron Christmas Party was well attended and gave **Sig Brian Young** the chance to solve his financial embarrassment by winning the main cash prize. It is rumoured that he even bought a round.

On the Christmas front the troop had a surprise Christmas present in the shape of two new SCRA Centrals. Unfortunately they came without crews, but we are hoping to rectify this in the new year.

On the training side of life we now have all the troop trained in recovery techniques, thanks to **Sgt Ed Perry,** who has made sure that we have had enough practice. (Has anyone tried Hang Gliding with a Land Rover?)

We are pleased to be able to welcome two new troop members, **Cpl Willy Scoots** and **LCpl Paddy Quee.** According to rumour control they can both hear the call of wedding bells, so there will be plenty to celebrate later in the year.

2 SQUADRON

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

The farewell's and hello's for the Squadron in this issue are numerous and wide ranging. Everyone left within the Squadron would like to take this opportunity of saying thank you to all those going and hello to those who have arrived.

Firstly the unlucky ones who must sadly go. **Capt I. Cameron-Mowat** who leaves the Squadron as 2IC after being OC for a while, before that 2IC, before that OC and before that 2IC . . . I won't go on! Good luck in your new post in Berlin and congratulations on your forthcoming wedding. Farewell's also to **Lt Rick Mather, Sgt 'Wurzel' Rixon, Cpl Heather** promoted to Sgt on posting to Harrogate and wife **Karen, Cpl Robertson** to Osnabruck, **Cpl Brown, Cpl 'Shergar' Nicholls, Cpl Orr, LCpl Callaghan** and wife **Sue, LCpl Crawford** to 244 in rural Oxfordshire, **LCpl Higgins, LCpl Birkin** and last but not least **Sig Huxley,** good luck to you all and my apologies to anyone I may have missed.

Our welcome goes out to the new OC, **Maj Paul Eaton** and wife **Jo,** also to the new 2IC **Capt Mike Wise** and wife **Rebecca** who come to us all the way from 3 Sqn, the new OC Rover Troop **Lt John Stuart** and family, also from 3 Sqn **SSgt Price** the new SQMS, **Sgt Nige Green** and family, **Sgt Phil Cox** and wife **Sarah, Sgt Norman Blaine** and **LCpl Marsh,** a welcome back to **LCpl 'Flash' Sampson** after three years in Blandford and **LCpl 'Moggie' Morgan** for a while and give the PT Corps a miss, also welcome to **Sigs 'Jock' Pearson, Edwards** and of course last but least **Sig Appleton.** A special welcome must go to **LCpl Morris** who arrived in time for exercise and now has to go, thank you for the visit. Welcome to all of you, to anyone I've missed, again I apologise.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **SSgt (FofS) Dean Allen** and wife **Sarah** on the birth of their daughter **Charis.** Also to **SSgt Chhetri** on promotion to WO2, a farewell to him also as he leaves the SQMS spot for the dizzy heights of RQMS. Special congratulations go to **Cpl Hawson** for winning himself a two week holiday in Switzerland in a BAOR wide road safety competition—well done!

Mrs Chris Ashwell showing how statues should be played with Sgt Nige Green in the background wearing his normal exercise kit

SQUADRON LIFE

In the past few months the Squadron has had a very busy time, as has everyone with exercises such as Reforger and Keystone.

The Squadron also provided a 30 man strong honour guard for the 1 Fernmelde Bn in November and still managed to have the usual festivities leading up to Christmas and New Year.

The highlight of the feasts was the Squadron Wives Club Children's Christmas Party which was yet again a great success. Santa arrived in a Noddy train this year as the 436 he used last year was apparently VOR! The Squadron singlies provided the Noddy staff and of course enjoyed joining in all the games. All of the Squadron would like to thank **Mrs Chris Ashwell** for organising the Wives Club so successfully for the whole year.

Well that's all for this issues exciting instalment from 2 Sqn.

3 SQUADRON

The main items in the month were a Regimental Plug-Up and exercise, Ex Highland Malt 1. Oscar Troop, together with their oppo's in 2 Sqn were playing guess the changes on a variety of layouts for the Divisional Headquarters.

Ex Highland Malt 1 was interesting, mainly due to the totally unusual weather. The Panzer crew were actually reported to have been warm! The new OC Line Troop **Lt Kevin 'Rodney' Bowers** and **Sgt Dave 'Del Boy' Harman** with their Line Van being the only spec talk team in the Regiment—they claim that the troop is under strength but that can't be true cos every one is saying that. The other surprise in store was for the new OC November Troop **Lt Alan 'Bluffwell' Blackwell** who was shocked to find that the entire administrative side of Rear HQ, guard, cookhouse and all, had moved location without his knowledge—especially as it was the OC Squadron, **Maj Brian Scott-Morton** who took great delight in telling him the news (the OC had passed the admin packet going out as he came in).

New to the Squadron is **SSgt (FofS) Richardson** who replaces **SSgt (not FofS) Price** who has moved to be SQMS 2 Sqn. The youngest member of the Squadron, **Sig Chapman** made a brief (12 hour) appearance in Oscar Troop before going off to BMH Hannover to have his appendix taken out. The Squadron says farewell to **Capt Mike Wise** who moves to be 2IC 2 Sqn and to **Capt Frank Roberts** who goes on JOSC and then posting. In addition the Squadron says goodbye to **Sgt McWhirter** and **Sgt Harman** on posting.

Finally, all members of 3 Sqn would like to send their best wishes to **Mrs Lesley Parker** who is in UK in hospital. We all wish her a full recovery and a quick one (not least because it means **Cpl Parker** can get back to work!)

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DFDS SEAWAYS

201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde)
BFPO 30

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Since our last notes there has been a change of Squadron Commander. **Maj David Wills** and his wife **Elizabeth** have departed for the Ministry of Defence and we all wish them success and thank them for their time here in Hohne. The new Officer Commanding, **Maj Roger Batho** and his wife **Lesley** arrived in December and we wish them both a happy and successful tour at the Stag Squadron.

Maj David Wills (right) handing over command to Maj Roger Batho

EXERCISES

The Squadron has had a hectic three months involved in exercises but particularly Ex Reforger 87. During this time the Squadron worked hand in hand with a German Brigade and 1 US Cavalry Div from Fort Hood Texas. Many members of the Squadron came into contact with the Americans and developed friendships. Along with exchanging addresses and operating procedures most personnel now have souvenirs of equipment. The exercise was an excellent opportunity to see how the other half lives and was terrific experience for all.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Now that the exercise season has finally come to an end and for this unit this was on 21 December 1987, when the Squadron held its annual Christmas Dinner in the main restaurant of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery.

The Squadron personnel could hardly believe that they had been given a day off to eat, drink and be merry, and this they did whilst the Officers and SNCO's waited on them.

After the meal **Maj Roger Batho** conducted the Officers and SNCO's male voice choir, which sang 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'. The choir was not booked for a repeat performance!

Cpls Bob Anthony (front left), Harry Fellows (inside left), 'Robbo' Robinson (front right) and Sig 'Geordie' Ryder (inside right) discuss how to get out of the washing up

Cpl 'Tich' Wright—what a time to start a vegetarian diet!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Sgt 'Mick' Turnbull** who recently gained first place on a Judo referee's course.

DEPARTURES

SSgt Pete and **Mrs Marilyn Stemmer**—Belize, **SSgt (FofS) Willie** and **Mrs Sue Dott**—Verden, **WPte Julie Rogers**—London and **Sig (now LCpl) Roy Dowington**—14 Sig Regt.

ARRIVALS

SSgt (FofS) John and **Mrs Margaret Allen, Sgt Kevin** and **Mrs Helen Ludkin, SSgt David** and **Mrs Lin Showell, LCpl Robert** and **Mrs Karen Giffard, WPte Michelle Marton** and **WPte Jacqueline Malcolm**. We wish to thank all those departing and welcome all those arriving.

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

CROSS COUNTRY

The Squadron won the 7 Armd Bde Championships with an excellent display. Led by **Sgt Dave Forbes**, the team put in a 100% effort in training and competition. **Cpl 'Chippy' Chapman** won his first trophy so we hear. Well done all.

FUTURE

We are now shaking off the Xmas pud and turkey curries on our latest keep fit campaign, and getting ready for the forthcoming exercise season, site guards, Border Patrols and Ex Snow Queen (snow please 'BOWO'). Just to start the ball rolling, and to help burn off the Christmas excesses, the new OC, **Maj J. M. Willis**, began the year by enlivening the Regimental Plug Up with an *Active Edge* call-in and deployment at 0315 hrs.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

The Squadron welcomes the following new faces, **Lt 'Moose' Forrest** and his accent, **Lt 'Tally Ho' Hudson**, attached to RH as RSO,**Sgt Miles** and his wife **Sue, LCpl Donovan** and his wife **Sharon, LCpl Mather** and **Sig Goble, Hay** and **Gourley**. We wish them all good luck in their time in Soltau.

FAREWELL

To the old Stalwarts, namely, **Lt 'Swampy' Felton** on his tour to NI, **LCpl Wendy McNaught, Sig 'Scouse' Carleton** and **Sig Tristan Mutton**. Good luck to you all in the future, and thanks for everything.

212 SIGNAL SQUADRON

First things first. With the start of a new year, we must catch up on the hellos and farewells. Firstly a big hello to the following new members of the Squadron:- **Maj Hugh Colborn** and his wife **Jill, Capt Tony Johnson, Sgt Ian Dickinson** and his wife **Melanie, Cpl Steve Allister** and his wife **Kathryn, LCpl Bill Moffat** and his wife **Birgit, LCpl Pendrich, Sig Girling, Jameson** and **Purvis**. We also say a fond farewell to the following members of the Squadron, **Capt Richard Giles, Cpls Mick Hunt, Lee Warren, Sig Jamie Jameson** and **Sgt (now SSgt) Mark Suddaby**. The saddest farewell must go to **Maj Jon Henderson** and his wife **Trish**, the outgoing Squadron Commander.

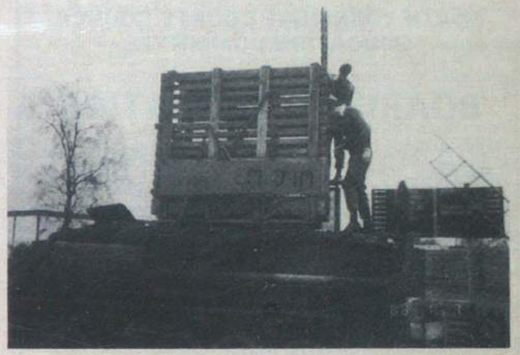
The Christmas bells may have been ringing in December for the rest of the world but in this Squadron it was the sound of Wedding Bells. Our congratulations and best wishes go to the following members of the Squadron and their brides, **Lt Andy** and **Gill Hill, LCpl Paul** and **Michelle Athersmith** and lastly **Pte 'Solli'** and **Julie Salisbury**.

'OSCAR' TROOP NEWS
DATELINE: 4 DECEMBER 1987

The time's right, the venue is set and it's time for 'Oscar' Tp's Christmas Extravaganza. The decision to make it fancy dress was a winner from the start, with everyone involved having a great time. The traditional prize was eventually won by **Sig 'Scouse' Johnson** and **Sig Bob Dean**, wearing their Spanish Inquisition Kit. After a while the Christmas spirit was flowing well. **Lt 'Space Cadet' Butlin** was persuaded to hand over his ray gun for destruction, but only after **Cpl 'Geordie' Raine** had promised to pull off his arms. The night ended as usual with most people leaving a lot closer to the ground than when they arrived.

DATELINE 13 JANUARY 1988

It's the start of a new year and it's time for 'Oscar' Tp to show their supremacy over the rest in the annual grudge match 'The Chain of Command Race'. It was broken down into three sections:- BFT Phase Two (with times to count), Pass The Message and the Obstacle Race. The BFT went well with **Cpl Steve Clark** and **Sig 'Fletch' Fletcher** getting fast times and the rest of the team making a good effort. The obstacle race was a mere formality, with the team completing a gruelling task in 4 minutes 10 seconds. The message passing was a different game, with our team taking the pole again. Commiserations to SHQ One, whose team turned a contact report into a NAAFI Shopping List. The day was eventually won in the Squadron bar, where everyone had excuses for their performances.



The Squadron said farewell to **Maj ('Old Taskmaster Jail 'em Jim') J. M. Shaw MBE**, who was towed out of camp in a camel's cage. He was an inspiration to all ranks of the Squadron and will be sadly missed. Our congratulations on promotion to Lt Col and good luck at Staff College.

The Squadron started the year with a new broom, **Maj J. M. Willis**, and his wife **Angela** and family, on arrival from Staff College. We hope they have a happy tour in Soltau.

SOCIAL

The social side of the Squadron started off early in December with the opening of the New Look Jerboa Club, which was closed for six weeks whilst **Cpl (Fitz) Fitzpatrick, LCpl (Sam) Ellis** and **Sig (Scouse) Carleton** put in their past civvy experience to renovate the club. The Jerboa was opened by **Maj J. M. Shaw**, who cut the ribbon. There followed a celebration to the music of **LCpl (Sam) Ellis'** Disco.

SPORT

The Squadron has performed very well on the sports fields, notably at football, rugby, hockey and cross-country.

FOOTBALL

The Squadron team reached the finals of the Div Cup only to be narrowly beaten on penalties by 12 Armd Wksps. The team, however, have not let their heads drop and will be back next year.

RUGBY

The Squadron put on an excellent performance in the Page Trophy in Verden. With the team that was put together a week before by **Sgt O'Neil REME**, they beat 3 Sqn and then 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn to gain a place in the final against HQ Sqn (who had 11 Regimental players). It was a very hard fought match and the Squadron won by 13 points to 3. **Cpl Dave Clarke** was the man of the match and **SSM J. McAveety** the fan of the match!

HOCKEY

The Hockey team has acquitted itself very well this season under the leadership of **Lt 'Shin Splints' Mullan**, by reaching the finals of the Div Cup and yet again losing to 12 Armd Wksps by 2—0. We still hope to do well in the BAOR competition (Look out 12 Armd Wksps).

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

BOARDING EDUCATION

North Yorkshire Local Education Authority maintains three secondary schools with boarding provision. Places are available for boys and girls for September 1988. Further particulars of the schools and application procedures may be obtained either by writing to the Head of the school or direct to the County Education Office, County Hall, Room 523, Northallerton DL7 8AE.

Admission to the grammar school is subject to the pupil's suitability for grammar school education. No charge is made to parents in respect of tuition.

ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S SCHOOL

Archbishop Holgate's School is a Voluntary Controlled Comprehensive School for some 700 boys and girls situated on the eastern outskirts of the City of York having accommodation for about 45 boarders in a modern purpose-built Boarding House on an attractive site within easy reach of the City. The School founded in 1546, is now accommodated in modern premises and provides a wide range of GCSE and 'A' level courses. Boarding facilities at Archbishop Holgate's is for boys 11-18 including some boarding provision for pupils attending the York Sixth Form College.
Head Teacher: Mr A. Walker, Hull Road, York YO1 5HA.

RICHMOND SCHOOL

A County Co-educational Comprehensive School for some 1,200 pupils (with a sixth form of about 230 pupils) having two well appointed Boarding Houses set in their own attractive grounds, with accommodation for about 35 boys and 12 girls. There is a wide range of courses based on strong academic traditions, for pupils of all abilities leading to GCSE and 'A' level examinations.
Head Teacher: Mr J. D. Dutton MA, JP, Darlington Road, Richmond DL10 7BQ.

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A County Co-educational Grammar School for some 660 pupils having two attractive boarding Houses with accommodation for about 55 boys and 45 girls. A wide range of GCSE and 'A' level courses is provided and a high proportion of pupils go on to courses of higher and further education.
Head Teacher: Mr D. B. Stanley BSc, Clotherholme Road, Ripon HG4 2DG.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

HELLO AND GOODBYE

The start of 1988 has been busy with the arrival and departure of Commanding Officers. On 29 January the Regiment bade farewell to **Lt Col Hugh Elford** who is heading for the land of pinstriped suits, black umbrellas and bowler hats.

Lt Col Hugh Elford's time with the Regiment has been eventful, with the change from Bruin to Ptarmigan, the Leeds Water Crisis, two Royal Visits, success in the Army Athletics and finally Ex Keystone.

Lt Col Hugh Elford left the Regiment as an 'armchair sportsman', comfortably seated in the back of a Landrover sipping Champagne, surrounded by skis, rugby balls, footballs and other sports kit.

The Regiment wish him all the best in his new appointment and in his house in Gloucestershire.

As with every departure, there is a welcome for the new incumbent—we welcome **Lt Col John Griffin** who has come from SHAPE to command 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and wish him all the best for the forthcoming months.

DERBY DAY FOR RHQ
Report by Cpl Champkin

At approximately 1400 hrs, Wednesday 27 January the more adventurous members of RHQ set off in four ton luxury for the Moorhouse Farm Riding School in Wigginton.

We were given a warm and friendly greeting by the staff of the school (if only they knew the daunting prospect that lay ahead).

After an amusing 10 minutes trying to find hats to fit we made our way into the arena. More comedy followed as **Cpl Steve James** treated us to a display of his own mounting technique. **Sgt Neil Bartlett** was presented with a horse that measured enough hands to make a resounding round of applause. Being no newcomer to the tally-ho brigade this didn't present too much of a problem to him. The expert in our line up was **Lt Ruth Littlejohns**, who, from her showing at this session is a talented rider.

Faller of the Day—**Sig Rick Keeble**. Wimp of the Day—**Sig Mick 'I'm not doing that' Storey**.

Despite being a little saddle sore all concerned enjoyed their day. The staff of the school are to be commended for their patience and bravery.

Had this been the 3.30 at York the result may have looked something like this:-

1st	**Lt Ruth Littlejohns** (Everybody's favourite)
2nd	**Sgt Neil Bartlett**
3rd	**LCpl Dave 'Jodpurs' Edlin**
Also Ran:	**Cpl Steve James**
	Cpl Dave Mason
	Cpl Graham Champer
	LCpl Geoff Reynolds
Faller at First:	**Sig Rick Keeble**
Non Starter:	**Sig Mick Storey**
Non Runner:	**WO1 Ray 'I'll do it next time' Duffy**

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?

TEL 01 930 4466 EXTN 8242

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	**Lt Andrew Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Dean Wood**

POSTINGS

The Squadron says farewell this month to **Cpl 'Tommo' Thompson** who leaves us on promotion, to 8 Sig Regt, a short journey across the roundabout. Also gone is **LCpl 'Fitz' Fitzgerald**, whose 'spiel' on the SAS/MC has been heard by practically every officer in the Brigade. **'Fitz'** leaves us for the slightly more sedate life of 242 Sig Sqn across the border.

New recruits to HQ Tp include **LCpl Sean Hyland** who joins the SQMS stores mafia, and **Sig Colin Elston** to the Foremans Tech empire. To Oscar Tp goes **Sig Jerry Ashcroft**, the long awaited crew member/tea maker/dogs-body for **Cpl Higgins** who is constantly 'shimpfing' about not having a crewman and getting lemoned for writing *Wire* notes. Accompanying him to Oscar Tp is **Sig Buz Norman** from 8 Sig Regt who replaces **LCpl 'Percy' Parkin** in the line det, **LCpl Parkin** having asked for early retirement and resettlement in Papa Tp as the pressure was too great.

A warm welcome also to the new SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Trevor Jones** who joins us from 36 Sig Regt (V). The SSM has spent a confused couple of weeks trying to work out why the Squadron doesn't resemble the rest of the Regiment. He has however whole heartedly supported the tradition of Friday afternoon runs, and it can be only a matter of time before we get issued with Route-Planner North maps for the Friday runs.

On the Squadron's return from California it was back to good old 'sunny' Catterick (and it was sunny for once). The troops returned to the task of preparing the vehicles for exercise, and completing the post Keystone cleaning, as was shown by the number of 'cement factory' cam-nets. There was the usual Squadron fun with **Sig 'Geordie' Fuller** and **LCpl Clive 'The Body Bootiful' Whitehouse** throwing more than a few head fits amongst other things. **Cpl 'Holly' Hollingsworth** was acting as a slavemaster and beasting his crewman, as usual.

It was a hectic Christmas in 210 this year. Every year there seem to be more excuses for more excuses for more drinks, but it was a happy Christmas indeed. Many traditions continued, like Oscar Tp providing the beers for Papa Tp, and Troop OCs providing the beers for Troop Sergeants and never getting them back, but I guess that's all part of the job. We rounded off 1987 with a Squadron Christmas shindig at the 'Club Paradise', the Civil Service Club, with **Cpl Trib 'Travolta' Slaney** and his 'formation' team on the dance floor. The OC got buried under an avalanche of Crazy String, and the AO and 2IC spent the last few days of 1987 in glittering uniforms.

After seeing off the last of the turkey butties 13 of the Squadron (I knew there was a reason for everything going wrong) journeyed up to Granton-on-Spey for a week's skiing. Ex Iced Gryphon was organised by **Cpl Dave Ruane** and well done it was at that. After the first day's skiing on patchy snow the snow melted completely and the sun came out for the rest of the week, much to the relief of **Cpl Colin Dennis** who in just one day had almost been killed twice by **Cpl Higgins**. For once **Lt Andy Duncan** had to think of something to do without the aid of **Sgt Terry Gigg** who came up with a unique excuse for not attending and spending a sleepy week back at camp. The time was spent constructively, visiting almost every tourist attraction north of Loch Ness.

Cpl Dave Ruane still believes there is such a thing as the Loch Ness monster, and **Sig Pat Kenny** is still 'tig' on the skating rink. **Lt Andy Duncan** has at long last found a sport that **Cpl Al Higgins** hasn't beaten him at yet—Curling! The result of the match is however in doubt as the rival teams of **Church**'s Chargers and **Duncan**'s Disasters keep telling different stories. **Cpl Church** has however found a place to retire to, Glanfarclas Whisky Distillery, and **Cpl 'Cossy' Costello** and **Sig Jerry Ashcroft** learned that 0600 in the morning is still not early enough to get up in order to have breakfast for 13 ready by 0800 hrs. The week was rounded off in style with a games night against the locals of the Granton-on-Spey Hotel, which we managed to win even though we were let down terribly in the boat race by **LCpl 'Jim' Davidson**. Quote of the week was 'Just a wee dram', which **LCpl Davidson** found out was never too wee.

On returning from Iced Gryphon it was straight into Ex Key Link, a Regimental Signal exercise. Fortunately the OC Sqn took the soft option of the double bed in 32 French Road, as opposed to **Sig Kenny**'s camp bed and 9ft × 9ft tent so we weren't pushed too hard. From Oscar Tp's point of view the exercise was a tremendous success due to the fact that it was the first ever exercise when **Lt Duncan** has failed to get his boys lost. The fact that he had been to all the locations at least twice before could have had something to do with this though.

FOOTBALL

The squadron football team is currently the strongest team in the league because they are holding the rest of the teams up! Enough said.

HELLO FROM THE SQUADRON ORDERLY ROOM
by LCpl Steve Blunsden

Who are we? We are the people who, somehow, always fail to get a mention in *The Wire* when the 2IC writes the Wire Notes, so we have decided to change that here and now. Firstly we are three and are responsible for all the admin side of things in the Squadron. We are **SSgt Dean 'Chippy' Wood** the brand new Chief Clerk back from his holidays in Austria, **Cpl Bob 'Teepee' Hindhaugh** and Orderly Room Corporal, and last but not least, the Jack of all Trades **LCpl Steve Blunsden** who does everything else. Here in this busy Orderly Room we provide the members of the Squadron with useful information and help, such as 'We're shut' or 'No, go away' and 'Yes, but you can't have any'. But seriously folks we just thought we would say hello to all our fellow clerks and wish you all a happy New Year. Oh yes, if any budding Lance Corporal would like a posting here, put in for it now because I am posted in April, so apply now, please . . .

The Bde COS presents Sig Walton with the Controller's Cup for Oscar Tp's performance in the inter-troop sports competitions

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

1 SQUADRON

The year ended with a one week Wavell exercise held in very seasonal weather. The masts were glistening with early winter ice! Also during this period was the long awaited 'needle' football match between the Squadron and the RSM's select eleven. The match ended with the victor's laurels being presented to the Squadron who triumphed by two goals to one, although the results of the post match discussion went very much in the opposition's favour.

The entrée to the festive season was marked with a number of memorable social events. The high point of the social calendar was the Squadron 'Christmas bash'; universally acknowledged as the best Squadron party in the Regiment by those guests who were invited. It was noted, as an event, for the highly amusing performance of the guest hypnotist, who revealed many interesting facets of people's characters long concealed, particularly **LCpl 'Slugger' Leek** and **LCpl 'I'm cured' Miller**.

The next social event in which the Squadron took a leading role was the Regimental Smoker. The Squadron effectively stole the show with their rendering of the '1 Sqn Personality of the Year Award', a full blown satirical trip through the members of the Squadron. Nerves were tense as the judges agonised over their deliberations. To occupy the audience while the difficult choice was being made, the Fandango Brothers acrobatic troop, led by **LCpl Oldroyd** treated everyone to a breathtakingly brave performance of precision callisthenics. The result of the award, a runaway victory for the OC **Maj Ross**, was a verdict not entirely unpredictable.

2 SQUADRON

Since the last instalment of 'The Annals of 2 Sqn' we here in sunny Soest have continued to 'cut about' in preparation for what is to be a busy year. Two Red Tricorn exercises have increased our capacity to cope with the unexpected and we look forward to what will we hope, be a warm Flying Falcon. However, the part-time soldiers (ie the full-time skiers) have had to cope with a distinct lack of snow. Unlucky!

As well as the skiers, the real sportsmen of the Squadron have excelled themselves. A large number of the regimental rugby team now comes from us, the largest being **SSgt (FofS) 'Gig 2 Sqn Ops' Plumb**! The soccer team are of a high standard, nearly gaining the scalp of the Div Staff XI. **2Lt Simon Spiers** is entering Radio Troop in the Paris-Dakar rally to prove that they can manage to drive across country without bogging their vehicles in.

The diverse talents of the 2 Sqn Ops team, **SSgt (FofS) 'Giggle' Plumb**! The soccer team is of a high standard, nearly gaining the expanded. The masters of disaster are about to release a debut cover-version of 'Da do Run Run' and 'Catch me if you can'. They promise to be highly successful, especially with **LCpl Andy 'Dortmund commuter' Smith** and **Sig Fred 'I'm cracking up' Gee**; perhaps **Sig 'McNasty' Gilmour** will appreciate the 12in version. **SSgt Trev 'Staff, you're late again' Jenkins** is not amused, but then again, he never is.

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj R. V. J. Brannigan**
2IC	**Capt G. M. Smith**
SSM	**WO2 D. Coker**
OC P Tp	**Capt M. Shaw**
OC N Tp	**Lt A. Stringer**

Life in the prison has been busy. The Squadron has deployed on two regimental exercises, the latter notable particularly for the promotion of **SSM 'Excused Comms' Coker** to Trunk Node commander!

We have lost the services of **Capt Simon Lowe** who has gone off to climb Mount Everest on the Joint Services Expedition. With luck he should be the first member of the Corps to stand on the summit. We wish him and the other team members all the best.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

COMINGS AND GOINGS

At Brigade level we bade farewell to the commander **Brig Alex Harley OBE** (a great loss to the hockey team!) and to the COS **Maj Robert Baxter**, now OC 210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn! They are succeeded by **Brig Scott Grant** and **Maj Richard Shirreff** 14/20H.

At Squadron level the changes have definitely been rank enhancing (the OC, **Maj David Proctor**, must have been particularly enthusiastic at the last Regiment manning conference!). We said farewell to **LCpl Kev Young** on a posting to civvy street, to **Sig 'D-M' Davies-Morris** on posting to 16 Sig Regt (and to wedlock!) and to **Cpl Graham Preece** who has—finally—moved out of the Lippstadt/Paderborn area on posting to 1 Armd Div and Sig Regt!

In return we extend a warm welcome to a plethora of new faces: to **2Lt Jim Prior**; to **SSgt (FofS) John Martin**, his wife **Pat** and children **Sarah** and **Alan**; to **SSgt Kevin Nelson**, his wife **Lexley** and baby **Laura**; to **Sgt Jimmy Gray** and wife **Linda**; to **Sgt Sven Marson ACC** and **Karen**; to **Cpl Dave Gosney** his wife **Donna** and son **Chad**; to **Cpl Paul Emerson** and his wife **Ulrika** and to **Sig Lance Malin**. We hope your tours are enjoyable and rewarding and congratulate you on having the good fortune to be posted to the best Squadron in Germany!

VISIT-MANIA

With the winter period being generally declared an Exercise-Free zone, much emphasis was placed on presenting the new Brigade Staff with an opportunity to assess the capabilities of a headquarters in the field. The Squadron was pleased to receive a visit from the Commd Comms 1(BR) Corps **Brig T. I. M. Waugh**, who had the opportunity to inspect the new and palatial Headquarters.

EXERCISE RED TRICORN I

This was the first Regimental exercise of the year, a chance for the 'old salts' to show the new hands the ropes (and 500m HF Quads!) of the Ptarmigan system.

The first memorable incident of the exercise was provided by **Sig Rod Needham** who attempted to convert two cars into corrugated iron with the aid of a 17-ton Panzer, and this not 20 minutes from the camp gates!

Once in location much attention was focused on the relative culinary merits of the two headquarters: at main **Sgt Sven Marson ACC** drew on his years of experience (and the 1 QLR rations store!) to provide food of a very high quality; whilst at forward, **SSgt Nigel Sloane** and **Sig 'Nipps' Nichol** provided meals of unsurpassed excellence through a combination of ingenuity and endeavour. (Oh those curried barbecue sauces!). Finally, mention must be given to **Pte Steve Cheetham** for getting **Sgt Nick Hawley** to do a stag on sentry duty!

Cpl Greg Doughty instructing Sig Mac McKenna in the uses of the Mark 1 broom

Sig Mick Sansbury attempts to avoid the OC by hiding in a 16/24 generator

RUGBY

Having successfully reached its nadir last season the team could only improve. To its eternal credit and everlasting redemption it has. Bolstered by the strength of **SSgt Dave Tennick** and **Cfn 'Glump' Parker**, the stoicism of **2Lt Jim Prior**, the cheeky impudence of the Irish leprechaun **Cfn 'Paddy' Perry**, and the linguistic excesses of **Sgt Nick Hawley** the team has gone from strength to strength.

Though unlucky to lose 15—7 to a strong 10 Fd Sqn RE team in the BAOR quarter-finals (where the loss of **Cpls 'Taff' Leibe** and **'Grey' Doughty** proved insurmountable), the team recovered to trounce 3 Fd Amb 23—4 in the Div Minor Units, semi-finals and look forward to the final against 3 Tank Tptr Sqn.

NB WANTED

Two props: must be no-necked individuals with limited brain capacity but plenty of bulk. Ideally should be Radio techs to replace the loss of **Cpls Des Dolan** and **'Taff' Nelson** who, selfishly, put postings before the pursuit of rugby team honour and prestige!

SPORTS DESK

SOCCER

With the arrival of **SSgts Kev Nelson** and **Billy Haslam** to raise the average age of the team by 10 years, and of **Sgts Jimmy Gray** and **Nick Hawley** to add their own unique brand of goal scoring ability and natural verbosity the team has matured greatly in recent games. Their unbeaten sequence now rivals that of Liverpool, with teams fearing to play fixtures against them. Recent results include:-

v 211 Sig Sqn: Won 5—0
v 41 Ord Coy: Won 4—2

HOCKEY

The team is still consolidating after the posting of many of its star players. This, reinforced by injuries and courses can explain the odd-goal defeats by both 1 QLR and 11 Armd Wksp. The team looks forward however, to the White Knights 6-a-side tournament in April, where it hopes to overcome the disappointments of the season, and walk off with the trophy.

GOLF

Though not a recognised Squadron sport (although the SSM **WO2 Phil Budden** strenuously disputes this!) we did host the Paderborn Garrison Golf Competition. Congratulations especially to **Capt Mark Eaton** for a fine performance and to the SSM for demonstrating why the Squadron needs to spend such a large proportion of its sports grant on new golf balls!

FINALLY

Congratulations to **Capt Nick Pope** and his wife **Kay** on the birth of daughter **Helen Elizabeth Kay** at the end of November and to **Capt Mark Eaton** and his wife **Sarah** on the birth of son **James Anthony John** in early December. The Captains stress that any connection between the births and the two weeks separation caused by Ex Flying Falcon in February 1987 is entirely coincidental!

Congratulations are also in order to **Sgt Charlie Foster** who got married on 5 January whilst on leave. We look forward to welcoming your family when they arrive at the end of February.

Squadron Rugby (XV), Captained by Cpl Neil Fletcher, after a recent match against the combined 5/11 Workshop

206 (6 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj A. J. Grey**
2IC	**Capt V. J. Thatcher**
OC A Tp	**Capt M. Stapleton**
OC B Tp	**Lt J. Morley-Kirk**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) F. McAleer**
YofS	**WO2 I. Parry**
FofS	**SSgt D. Boxhall**
SQMS	**SSgt J. Lamb**
CC	**Sgt B. Glossop**

After our last 'bumper' contribution the Squadron has had a quieter period and hence less to write about.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Sadly the Squadron has said farewell to **Sgt (now SSgt) Dave Showell** posted to 201 Sig Sqn. He will be missed by all in B Tp and the Rugby team especially. Many thanks for his hard work and congratulations on his promotion.

LCpl 'Stumpy' Viner and **Pte 'Junior' Rosegreen-Walters** have moved on to civvy street, **LCpl Phil Lane** to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig Andy Camm** to 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn and **LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson** to 16 Sig Regt. Good luck and best wishes to all.

Warm welcomes are extended to **Sgts Boulton** and **Osman** and **Sig Sheard**.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Sig 'Bod' Body** on his recent promotion to Lance Corporal.

ROGUE WAVELL

Just when thoughts were on the Christmas shopping we deployed on Ex Vantage Point—a Corps Wavell exercise. The exercise took place over five days from 7-11 December. True to form, the Squadron tried to get a lead on the rest of the Corps and deployed on Friday the 4th.

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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A great deal of thought and planning went into the recce of the location, at St Sebastian Bks—no pig styes this time, at least! The Regiment's LAD were a touch annoyed, though, as they reported for work on Monday morning—what had been their own nice vehicle park when they left it, was now covered by sprawling panzer and penthouses—both headquarters of 'that Salamanca mob'.

Electric power was a much sought after commodity. The generators were doing their end-of-year falling over tricks and what power was left seemed to be cornered by **LCpl Andy Harriott** to run his 'few home comforts' in the G1/G4 'gin palace'.

On the whole the exercise went well and we managed to be up and running for more time than most but towards the end one of the Regiment's processors was not 'talking' as much as it should have been—so they found us in the end! **Cpl Tony Howard** obviously playing 'hard to get'.

To test the system to its full extent and really give the software something to sweat over, a daily 'Wally Rep' was instigated. Personalities such as **Sig 'Lighting' Gregory, Sig 'I'm not a ventriloquist's dummy' Large** and **Sig 'honest, I was only doing 50kph' Harden**, are especially worthy of a mention, from a surprisingly long list. One final point on this important Staff user exercise—who forgot to invite the Staff?

INTER-SQUADRON ORIENTEERING

After much sweat and bramble-bashing, the Squadron orienteers finally saw the wood for the trees. On 3 December a 10-man team represented us at the inter-squadron competition at Arnsberg. The A course runners did well with **Lt Jim Morley-Kirk** finishing in 6th position while **Sig 'Yod' Gilbert** (8th), **Paul Beckett** (12th) and **'Ski' Barr** (16th) came well up in the order.

The B course runners also put in a fine performance, achieving second place overall. **Sig Seb Wiles** deserves a special mention for being second fastest over the course, picking up an individual trophy. **Dvr 'Yorkie' O'Leary RCT** (10th), **Cfn Joe Isherwood REME** (11th), **Sig Stevie Emmett** (19th) and **Jimmy Shand** did the rest of the good work. After a close count of total times the Squadron did enough to win second place overall and, at last, got something to show for their efforts. **Pte Glen Suttenwood RPC**, obviously overcome by the occasion and tight finish, wouldn't came back in until the prizes had been presented. He certainly hadn't expected to win one!

Many thanks for a well-organised competition.

SQUASH

After a rather inauspicious start to the season, the 206 Sig Sqn Squash team has managed to win its way through to the semi-final of the 3 Armd Div Minor Units Knockout Competition. Despite the lack of encouraging results early in the season, the recently formed team is to be commended for its perseverance, particularly as there are only three players regularly available to compete.

Therefore, well done to: **Capt Mike Stapleton**, No 1, **Sgt Jeff Treen**, No 2, **SSgt Dave Boxhall**, No 3, and good luck for the remainder of the season.

CHARITY CANOE

Money from the Charity Canoe Race earlier in the year has now been received. **Cpl Eddie Butler RPC** presented a cheque for DM 1,450 to the Mohne Primary School, Soest—a donation towards the Guide Dog Appeal. The money has helped sponsor a cross-bred Labrador/Retriever called 'Wally'.

A further donation of DM 300 is being made to the Army Benevolent Fund.

LCpl Paul Davis and Sig Steve Emmett prepare the Bravo Tp Rebro for Ex Red Tricorn

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

2 SQUADRON

ALPHA 3 TROOP

The coming of the year saw big changes in Alpha 3 Tp. **2Lt Simon Gregory** as Troop Commander, **SSgt Kev Nicholls** as Troop Staff Sergeant, and from 7 Sig Regt as Troop Sergeant, **Sgt Dave Mason**. Changes for the better!

New arrivals also included **Cpl Jeff Smith, LCpl Martin Darlington** and **Sig Gray, Saidy, Fawcett, Stonestreet** and **Baker**. A further arrival came in the form of a son, **Luke**, to **Cpl Anthony Rathmell** and his wife **Niki**. Our congratulations to them.

The first exercise of the year 'Spring Warrior' saw most of the vehicles starting in the LAD—and on Endex returning there in one way or another. In true subaltern tradition, **2Lt Pete 'Mattress' Cubbin** and **2Lt Simon 'Grad' Gregory** both managed to 're-direct' their vehicle packets, thus putting the OC **Maj Mike Dent** and 2IC **Capt Nick Borrill** in less than good humour.

Spring Warrior turned itself into Flying Falcon overnight and off we trecked for a further two weeks of compo-rations. This brought a limited response from all concerned.

With Falcon came the re-naming of the Squadron as Panda Sqn, due to **SSM Brian Howe** deciding that as the rest of BAOR might not be playing, we would not only wear our camouflague cream—we would wear their as well. Regrettably the staff declined to participate, thus leaving even more for us to use.

Meanwhile, up in the hills the remainder of Rebro Tp are holding their own. **LCpl Steve Schneider** is now back in a Rebro, whilst **Sig Billy 'Ping-Pong' Cuthbertson** tries to get out of one in order to try and play table tennis for BAOR. The best of luck to him! This move would leave **LCpl Rab McLoughlin** alone to continue his one man quest to prove that subalterns are not the only ones who cannot hold a map the right way up. We wonder, has he ever considered a commission?

Still up in the hills **Cpl Al Evans** and his evil henchman, **LCpl 'Taff' Hetherington** continue to wage their two-man war against Radcon. An invitation to come and discuss the matter in person with **SSgt Kev Nicholls** was gracefully declined and therefore accepted by **Cpl Andrew Masterson** and **Sig 'Jimmy MacJimmy' Lyons**, the incomprehensible Scot. They stayed at Radcon with the Panzers for a few days but decided that all this pampering from the SSM of them and the Alpha One Softies was bad for their image and they took to the hills.

Back with the MT **Cpl 'Geordie' Stobbs** kept us all amused with his stand-up cabaret at 0100 hrs daily and notched up two firsts for himself—one, he stopped smoking, two he was caught working! He has already broken both of these terrible resolutions and disappeared to his POL Account and not been seen since.

Back on the hills saw **LCpl 'Tommo' Thompson** a-creeping about under a starlit sky defending his Cluster who were far too cold to consider anything else. Not that anyone could take them by surprise with an observation arc of 360° and a range of 30 plus kilometres. Never mind, what with all that cam-cream the enemy would never have found them anyway! So **Sig Porter, Saidy, Kielty** and **Christie** slept safely in their bags.

Finally, as we close we bid farewell to **Sig 'Very' Strange** as he changes a blue beret for a Red Cap with the RMP, and to **Cpl David 'Bob' Howes** as he leaves us for the land of the bogs and the little people. We wish them both well.

Until May, Panda Sqn will not be hibernating, so keep on sending the bamboo shoots and your unwanted 'Max Factor' combat brown make-up.

March past at the JNCO Cadre Parade, November 1987 Brig J. C. M. Gordon taking the salute

Brig J. C. M. Gordon Commander Herford Garrison presenting WO2 J. Dent with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal November 1987

Brig J. C. M. Gordon Commander Herford Garrison presenting Sig Leask 2 Sqn with the JNCO Cadre Top Student Award November 1987

ALPHA 2 TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Jim Wood**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Tony Giles**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Geoff Hawkins**

The troop has been kept busy during the past few months. After a hectic November where we maintained the good reputation of A2 Tp, December disappeared rapidly with intense social pressure. **LCpl 'Chappie' Chapman** and **Sig Phil Owens** organised the excellent troop function and **Cpls 'Stan' Stannage** and **Steve Burrows**, with help from **Sig Nigel Hinton**, ran the equally successful Squadron party, under the watchful eye of **Sgt Geoff Hawkins**.

Troop driver training has continued under the expert hand of **Cpl Dave Devine** and even **Sig 'Basher' Conteh** has passed, proving that **Cbt Powermen** can drive panzers.

Welcome to the new crew from 2 Sqn: **Cpl 'Flash' Eeles** and **Sig 'Paddy' O'Malley** as well as to the new troop members, **Cpl Chris Brown, LCpls 'Johno' Johnstone, Paul McGarry** and **Vince Prince** and **Sig 'Archie' Archibald.**

Congratulations and best of luck to both **Cpl 'Chalkie' White** and **Sig Mal Leach** on their promotion on posting. Congrats to **Cpl 'Herbie' Herbert** on his marriage to **LCpl Gloria Robb** and on passing the YofS exam and to **LCpl Sean Humphreys** on his promotion and squash success. A temporary farewell to those detached from the troop—**Sig 'Fitz' Fitzgerald** won the toss and went down south whilst **Sig 'Moose' Moakes** has had to suffer a few months in Cyprus! Best of luck to **Cpl Mick Curtis** in his attempt to become a Rodney and farewell and good luck to those leaving Herford: **Cpls 'Stan' Stannage** and **Ray' Lang** and **LCpls 'Smudge' Smith, 'Clint' Eastwood** and **'Libby' Lidbetter**. Thanks for all you have done for the troop.

A final note—has anyone seen the OC Tp's combat? because he hasn't . . .

3 SQUADRON
BRAVO TROOP

In November Bravo Tp said farewell to their OC, **Lt Graham 'he's never here' Complin** who has left us to become a Troop Commander at Harrogate—'the prodigal son returns' since he was once a 'sprogg' at the college. His replacement is **Lt Vinay Pandya** straight from the Troop Commander producing machine in Blandford. **SSgt Martin Smith** has also moved on and **SSgt Jim Brooks**, a fugitive from 2 Sqn is now in the Troop Staff Sergeant's seat.

Due to exercise commitments, the troop Christmas party had to be postponed and so in January the Bravo Tp Late Late Fancy Dress Christmas Party took place. This was a great success since every one made the effort to dress up. **Sig John 'Bad News' Amos** won the best fancy dress prize—it was the skirt and boots that did it.

On the sporting side, the troop entered and won the Regimental inter-troop 5-a-side football competition. The games were played with fierce determination and it was the will to win which counted for just as much as talent. Fine performances were put in by **Sgt Alec 'top scorer' Porter** and **Cpl Thomas 'didn't I do well?' Murney**.

Farewell to **LCpl Parkin** and **Sig Sutton** and **Lunt** and welcome to **LCpls Riley** and **Reynolds, Dvr Drew** and **Sig Parry**.

SSgt Brooks, Sig Amos, Cpl Rooney, Sig Thompson, LCpl Riley, Cpl Murney, Sgt Porter

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

Since our last report the unit has been involved in a number of different activities.

In early December the bulk of the Squadron deployed to the local area for the annual regimental communications exercise, Ex Norman Warrior. This involved a few busy days moving around the countryside practising set up and tear down procedures. The exercise proved to be popular and successful and provided a welcome break from the routine of barracks.

After Christmas it was back to the fray as the Squadron Boxing Team completed its training and prepared to face 5 Armd Wksp REME in the Semi-Finals of the BAOR Novice Grade 3 Competition.

Despite some spirited fighting most notably by **Sig Pete Thrush** the only man to win his bout, the competition was lost 6—1.

SKIING

While all this was in progress the Squadron skiing team was preparing for its assault on the 4 Div Ski Meeting. In mid November the Nordic Team went off to Norway to take part in Ex Viking Loipe training course at BOBC. The course was extremely well run and provided excellent grounding for all the team members. While this was in progress the Alpine Team was busy with fitness training in Minden prior to the move to snow.

After Christmas both teams travelled to Alpbach in Austria to continue the training. Unfortunately the conditions were very bad and the only downhill skiing was high up at the top of the mountain, while the Nordic Team was forced to use roller skis.

However, despite these conditions the teams were well prepared when they moved to Galtur for the 4 Div Championships. Snow conditions at Galtur were much better and all the planned races went ahead. Both teams started off well and the early results showed that the training had paid off. With all the results calculated at the end of the competition the Squadron had come second in the Minor Units Nordic Combination (15km, 4 × 10km, 4 × 7.5 Biathlon and Patrol Race) and second in the Minor Units Alpine Combination (Slalom, Team Giant Slalom, Team Downhill). With the combined efforts of both the Nordic and the Alpine team the Squadron had won the Champion Minor Unit (Sapper Shield) Competition.

THE TEAMS

Alpine: Lt Rob Salvoni, Sig 'JT' Thomas, Tony Ward, 'Tommo' Thomson and **'Taff' Morris.**

Nordic: Lt Iain Standen, Cpl Tony Slaney, Sig Kev Crawford, Sean Maidment, Dean Rawlings and **Dick Murray.**

Alpine team pose with instructor at Alpbach

The patrol race team await the start

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

'A UNIQUE RECORD!'

Harry Illingworth joined the Corps on 16 January 1933. During the war he served with 'Y' Signals based at Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire. When the war ended he went to Austria, as SSM, with the occupying forces where he spent five years. Commissioned in 1953 he was posted to Kenya where he served with COMCAN at RAF Eastleigh (now Nairobi's main airport).

He finished his service in 1963 at the now disbanded 23 Sig Regt in Lincoln. By this time his son **John** was in the Corps about to join 216 Para Sig Sqn. Having served in a variety of posts worldwide **John** was RSM of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt before being commissioned in November 1985. He is now MTO of 7 Sig Regt.

Harry's clean conduct sheet hangs proudly in **John**'s home, (unfortunately **Capt John Illingworth**'s conduct sheet can not be found).

Father and son have a total of 55 years unbroken service in the Corps, a record thought to be unique.

2 SQUADRON
SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL LONG RANGE RECONNAISANCE AND PATROL SCHOOL. ILRRPS

COY HQ

CC	**Maj J. P. Moreland**
2IC/Ops Offr	**Capt A. J. Trimble**
Asst Ops	**SSgt YofS S. Catterall**

1 PLATOON
Capt David Raleigh
Sgt Glenn Henderson

2 PLATOON
2 Lt James Forest
SSgt Steve Meachin

3 PLATOON
Capt Adrian Ridley-Jones
Sgt Rob Lane

COMMS SECTION
Cpl Mike Brooks
Sig Chris Ravenhill
Cpl Stan Haynes
LCpl Bob Harvey
LCpl Gerry Findlay

ADMIN
WO2 (SSM) 'Suds' Melville
Sgt Rob Lane

September and October had been especially busy months for 2 Sqn committed to Ex Reforger 1987 and then to Site Guard. By the way of light relief the last week of October was dedicated to deployment as an infantry company, to act as a Hunter Force for an escape and evasion phase of a course being run by ILRRPS.

Whilst **Capt Raleigh** and **SSM Melville** took road packets on the 17 hour journey south to Bavaria, the remainder travelled in comfort on the train.

The Company settled into its accommodation, in Stadt Reidlingen and Coy Comd **Maj Joe Moreland** and Ops Offr **Capt Andrew Trimble** went off to be briefed by the ILRRPS staff.

The workings of an International Special Forces school were something to behold and it took some time before the Ops Offr became used to being addressed as 'Boss'. One particular Warrant Officer at the school was named **'Splash'** following his activities in the South Atlantic. It seemed appropriate that **SSM Andy Melville** might easily be christened with a similar nickname. 'Splodge' was rejected in favour of 'Suds', for in the absence of any other help, the Sergeant Major undertook pan-bash.

Breakfast in Altshausen after a hard night

LCpl Bawks, Sig Twigg and Rockcliff enjoy dinner

The week was a busy one with patrols out each day aided by the dogs from ADTO Sennelager and their handlers.

By night ambushes and screens were deployed by an ever confident Ops Offr who tasked an increasingly sceptical company onto his 'dead certs'.

Captures were the name of the game, however, one American student was caught so often as to warrant his adoption by the Squadron.

On the last day the high profile patrolling phase resulted in a total of 12 contacts; something which raised the morale of those sections who feared that the 'enemy' had not been deployed on the exercise.

SECTION ACCOUNTS OF WHAT 'REALLY' HAPPENED
SECTION 3
Account by Sig Knight and LCpl Duffy

Oh, how I longed for a contact on those lonely nights, in my dead certain ambush or OP position. Over the radio . . . 3 Platoon . . . four contacts . . . two captured. **'Capt Ridley Jones** must have some inside info'. 'No, he's just got a neon sign with free tea and biccy's for prisoners on it', went the conversation, on another 'dead cert' OP.

'We'e moving to another OP (dead cert) came the order from **'Ace' Horrobin** (I whisper like a fog-horn). 'Oh no, not another OP' whispers **'Kit' Knight**, whilst waking **'Gaz' Duffy**, who for a change was curled up in his sleeping bag!

'OK lads we're moving into the location now, stop talking and no torches', came **Sgt Henderson**'s orders, as he turned the engine off and switched the lights on full beam. As we moved through the thick fog holding onto each other for fear of getting lost; and in a deadly silence that frightened off all enemy within three miles **Capt Raleigh** said 'Let there be light . . .' Pop! Whoosh! . . . and there was light . . . from one lonely trip flare on the side of the road . . . (our own). . . . Later that night . . . **Cpl 'Ace' Horrobin** couldn't find his basha, 'if it's good enough for officers its good enough for me'. Once again came the words 'let there be light' Pop! Whoosh! . . . yes another lonely trip flare. Then came **Cpl Grant Hume** who looked more like an escapee with all the Canadian Kit he'd acquired together with his side-kick **LCpl 'Pyrotechnic' McKenna** who between them managed to catch the sum total of one . . . hedgehog, well done lads.

Even when the section was watching over the 'Land of Nod' on an OP you could always rely on **Adi Rockliffe** to let the escapees know of our position with excessive snoring.

In all it was a pretty good week with us scoring a total of no catches but six sightings. Sorry, we did have a catch . . . two bergens, kindly donated by two sightings. We couldn't thank them 'cause we couldn't catch them!

SECTION 6—AN ACCOUNT BY THE SECTION

Our week as the enemy for the Survivalists started as it meant to go on—Cold! First scenario was for 4 Section to set up an ambush on a Pylon line that was a 'dead cert' to be followed; then for 5 and 6 Sections, commanded by **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Roberts** and **Cpl 'Goddamn Marine' Gow** respectively, to drive escapees into the ambush. We started to get the idea something was going wrong when **Cpl Roberts** was three hours late on a one and a half hour patrol. No luck first night, although, in our defence, the fog that persisted throughout our time down there prevented us from getting any use at all from our night sights.

The next night produced the same results, possibly due to the fact that **Cpl Morris** while setting up a trip flare, managed to illuminate the whole area and certain members thought that they were back at camp in their beds and decided to get some sleep!

The final night involved all three Sections patrolling and then meeting at a final RV, result . . . nothing!

On the final day we were all in four ton trucks and landrovers where the idea was for high visibility to hound the escapees. With much banging and crashing we set about our task; the inevitable results . . . Nothing! Then **LCpl (how do I reply to a radio check?) Evans** told us that another Platoon had caught ten—morale fell.

All in all, a very enjoyable week was had by MOST!

LLRP's

Both OC 2 Platoon, **2Lt 'Pathfinder' Forrest** and Platoon Sergeant, **SSgt 'Beastmaster' Meachin** were well chuffed with the men of 2 Platoon, who scored twice in capturing POW's. There were no 'dead certs' in the areas covered during the night patrols by the Platoon, and all credit is to be given to the lads for maintaining a high morale.

Great interest was shown in the two POW's captured. It was soon felt that **LCpl 'Peterhead' Thompson** should perform strict admin tasks for any future captures, on account of his enthusiasm. **LCpl Lewis** of 5 Section almost suffered a bout of schizophrenia after being accused of sounding 'matter of fact', 'bored' and resembling an air traffic controller. **LCpl 'Jackanory' Moore** was noted for his in depth running commentary over his radio. This reflected the general thoroughness of his work, which included setting off trip-flares in the middle of ambush areas, just to make sure they worked.

Both **Cpl Morris** and **LCpl Moore** experienced the nodding head syndrome on ambush, but this was quickly relieved by a size ten boot from the 'Beastmaster'.

Throughout the week the section commanders **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Roberts, Cpl 'Goddam Marine' Gow** and **Cpl 'Taff' Moylan** did a splendid job in watching over their respective sections. **Cpl Roberts** section was most tolerant after discovering that, due to poor navigation, the section spent three and a half hours on a scheduled half hour patrol.

Thanks must go to all of the men in 2 Platoon for making the week fun as well as interesting.

5 SQUADRON

EXERCISE SALTY QUADRANT 1987

Between Ex Reforger and Able Archer six members of the Regiment managed to fit in Ex Salty Quadrant 1987. Not for them the luxury of box bodies on the North German Plain and leisure pursuits. Instead this dedicated group endured the rigours of British Airways (free drinks) and the warm seas of the Mediterranean.

The aim of this exercise was to introduce a group, comprised mainly of novices, to sailing and in the process discover a little of what Cyprus has to offer. We had chartered the Corps yacht, *Parang*, and during two weeks sailed the entire south coast of the island learning the fundamentals of sailing on the way.

The RAF flew us to England and from there 'your friendly airline' flew us to Cyprus. On the way, **Sig 'Dusty' Miller** tried his hand at flying, much to the consternation of all concerned. On arrival **Sig Simon Byers** soon found a friendly 'disco' and a bevy of beauties who wanted him to dance and drink the night away with them.

The sailing was a colourful affair. The deep blue sea, the brilliant white sails, **Sgt Steve Dale** a lobster red and **Sig 'Jonny' Elwick** a funny shade of green.

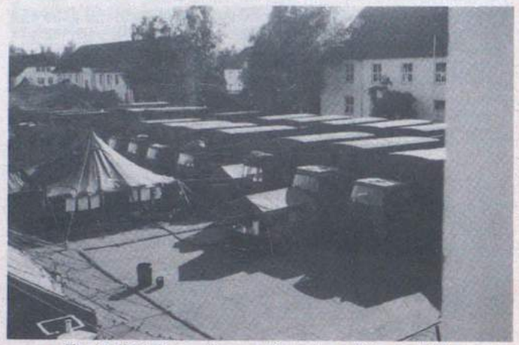
The high spot of the trip was the night sail from Paphos or the posing off Nissi Beach, depending on whether you are trying to justify the trip, or show the photographs around.

Prior to our return we had a few days off during which **Cpl 'Smudge' Smithson** saw the whole island for £2.40 while the rest of us saw a little less for a little more.

On a serious note all those who took part in the exercise learnt a lot about sailing and probably as importantly had an opportunity to visit a different environment and culture from their own.

EXERCISE CERTAIN STRIKE

Although Ex Certain Strike was held in September, 5 Sqn started work on 10 June. The task was to build the Control HQ for the largest ever post war exercise. With only a short leave break in July, the majority of the Squadron was at Oerbke Camp, Fallingbostel until the end of September. The 'linies' laid over 40 miles of cable during this time but somehow managed to reel it in, in only 36 hours. The exercise was a great success proving the versatility and reliability of Ptarmigan. There were those who did not last the course, however, the strain proving too much. It is thus with regret that we have said farewell to **WO2 (now WO1) (YofS) 'where's the coffee' McCarthy** and **SSgt (FofS) 'Good Good' Morris**. We welcome **WO2 (YofS) Heeles** and **(FofS) Gaffney** in their places.



The 1 (BR) Corps Comms Complex at Control HQ

MAN 002, Covert as usual

HELLO/GOODBYE

Other than those already mentioned, we must say a sad farewell to those who have been posted: **Spr May, LCpl Prime, Spr Dohurty, Cpl Gladstone, Cpl Scarff, Sig Marsden, LCpl Jacobs, Sig Dale, Cpl Carradine** and **Capt Costello**. Good luck to all of you in the future.

We also have the pleasure of welcoming: **Sgts Mick Hughes, W. Miller, Sig '007' Jeffrey, Bradbury**.

Our 'figure 11 target' of **LCpl (I'm an APTC Sgt now) Appleby** who, although he has not been seen this year, has finally gone and will also be missed by the few who knew him.

EXERCISE MEDICINE MAN 6

It all started on a Wednesday last May. Whilst sat in the troop office the OC came in and quipped, 'OK, who wants a month in Canada?' With thoughts of beer and sunshine, the OC was nearly killed in the rush but in the end, just three of us were chosen. The Regiment was supplying the manpower to assist 3 R Anglian in their BATUS training. **LCpl 'Sammy' Samosa, Sig 'Baz' Stark** and **'Gilly' Geelan** were the chosen few from 5 Sqn. The three of us, together with the rest of the party from the Regiment arrived at 3 R Anglian to be split up between A and C Coys. We soon found out that life in the infantry was different from that in the Royal Signals in many ways.

Days started with a BFT at 0530 hrs and then continued with relearning those infantry skills we had neglected for so long. **Sig 'Baz' Stark** found out what the GPMG was all about and **Sig 'Gilly' Geelan** still drops to the ground on hearing the command 'Tank Action' after his indepth involvement with the 84mm ATk weapon!

At last it was time to move on to Canada. 0430 hrs on a cold wet Saturday morning saw us going out of Elizabeth Barracks in Minden to arrive at Gutersloh at 0530 hrs. We then boarded an RAF VC10 and 'crabbed' our way to Rekyjavik in Iceland where we were allowed into the airport building. **Sig 'Baz' Stark** spent his time sending postcards to all his friends whilst the RAF refuelled the aircraft.

At last we landed at Calgary to be met by freezing winds straight off the prairies, a long way from the warmth of Germany in September. Battalion HQ was set up in Camp Crow Foot, BATUS. Moving out the next morning onto the prairies, we spent the next three weeks involved in live firing exercises, an experience never to be forgotten. Working at close range with tanks, helicopters and artillery, the noise and smoke reminded us of every John Wayne film we had ever seen. After the exercise was over, a well deserved week of R and R was had in Calgary.

We stayed in the Sandman Inn and had a wonderful, though expensive time, sampling the local beer and meeting the inhabitants. A wonderful display of dancing was given by two young ladies in the Silver Buckle Bar involving dollar bills and the audience; **Sig 'Gilly' Geelan** running up an overdraft in his enthusiasm to take part. But all too soon it was over and we returned to Germany having made many new friends and having been part of a never to be forgotten experience.

CROSS COUNTRY/MARATHON

Friday 2 October saw the Squadron competing in the Regimental Cross Country which they won with a fine run from **Cpl Cliff Booth**. On the same day we also came last in the Page Trophy proving that statistics can provide what ever is needed for the results.

Cpl 'Taff' James showing disloyalty, went across to compete in the Inter Services Marathon at RAF Swinderby, where he came a very creditable second overall and the first Army runner in a time of 2 hrs 29 mins. He now holds the title of Army Champion over 26.2 miles. For his efforts he received a handful of trophies and was also selected to represent the Army in UK in January, proving that some people will go to any lengths to miss a regimental cross country. (If you read this **'Taff'**, could you possibly come and do some proper work sometime?)

REGIMENTAL RUGBY

The Regimental team has seen a revival of fortunes this season. After a somewhat shaky start against 22 Sig Regt a firm foundation for the season was laid on a two week tour of Wales. Although only one game out of four resulted in a victory the team learnt vital lessons which prepared them well for the season ahead.

Obviously the team's aim was to progress as far as possible in the Army Cup with maximum enjoyment. As a build up to the Cup games the team played a BAOR XV gaining an impressive victory by a clear 30 points. As a result of this victory 13 of the side represented BAOR on a tour of Berlin.

Enough enjoyment was had for one season on this tour and training started in earnest under the guidance of that rubgy mad man, the RSM.

The messing account in the Officers Mess seemed to suffer during this period mainly due to **Lt Murray Coleman**, building his strength.

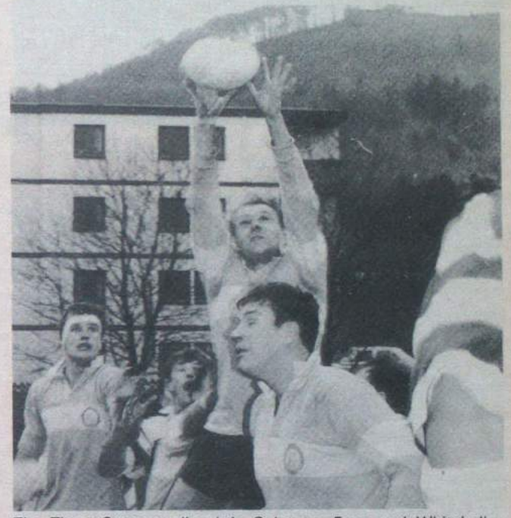
The team had a very good Cup run with good victories over 3 Regt RHA, 1KOSB, 47 Regt RA and 28 Sig Regt to reach the semi-finals of the BAOR Cup.

The draw pitted the Regiment with the Welsh Guards and in what was, without doubt, the team's best performance of the season the Regiment gained a fine victory of 22—7.

After much debate over venues and dates the final was played against a very strong 21 Engr Regt team which on the day was too strong for the Regiment and were worthy winners 19—4.

The Regiment with a team whose average age is only 22 did exceptionally well and now look forward to the Divisional final against the RRW.

All bodes well for next year when the aim is obviously to reach the Army Final. Personalities worthy of a mention are the Skipper **LCpl Martin Tombs** who, despite his youthful looks, has a very experienced rugby brain; **Sgt Bobby Snow** for his determined attitude in fighting his way back into the team for the finals; **Cpl Kenny Anderson** for his tremendous character and finally to the player of the season so far—**Cpl Archie Fulton**.



The Three Stooges alias Lt's Coleman, Egan and Whitehall—guess which one's asleep again

The Regimental Rugby Squad

SIGHTINGS

A very rare sighting indeed. The Regimental Sergeant Major, as always, having the last laugh, with his Sergeant Majors.

SERGEANTS MESS

A Long Service and Good Conduct Medal presentation took place in the Sergeants Mess in November. The four recipients were, left to right, **WO2 (SSM) Rudd, SSgts Eyre, Haywood** and **Strafford**. The medals were presented by the Commander Herford Garrison, **Brig J. C. M. Gordon.**

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

COMMS TROOP SAILING TRIP

'Anyone want to go sailing?' the OC asked. Silence for half a second and then all the adventurous on shift (girls) said 'Of course, Sir'. Joined by two others we were all set for a week on the high seas. Monday 0800 hrs at the MT, saw us assembled, four girls from Comms Tp, **Ceri Williams, Tracy Johns, Louise Self, Ali Bowers** and **Liz** and **Steve** from 3 Sqn. Six would-be sailors.

We arrived at Larnaca mooring and put on a good show of looking for 'our yacht'. Well, we found it! A marvellously big yacht, we nearly missed it, however, as it was hidden behind a pole! After our first day at sea most of us had mastered the art of steering and tacking with the sail (some of us being slower learners than others). So needless to say, by teatime we all had raging appetites, so when **Steve** said he'd cook chicken curry (à la compo style) we soon decided to go out for a pizza instead. Not really! However it didn't go down too well (nor did it stay down too well as a couple of us found out the next day).

The weather held up for us the following day so we spent a busy day . . . sunbathing. That night I'm afraid the thought of another chicken curry was too much to bear so this time we really did go out for a meal. Although we certainly used an original way of getting there. We anchored off Fig Tree Bay and swam to shore with dinghy in tow, full of clothes etc. But the thought of swimming back on top of the Chinese meal and the **small** ice cream (well, it only had 10 flavours) was not very appealing to some of us, so we decided to borrow a couple of blankets from a nearby hotel and spend the night under the stars, and complete the swim the following morning.

Wednesday on the Mediterranean proved an experience. To say it was rough would be somewhat of an understatement when we were battling through waves as big as the yacht. It was even bad enough for two of our intrepid crew to go down below with 'Mal de mer'. As for the rest of us we sat up on deck enjoying a marvellous lunch of cold compo beans and sausages. You couldn't possibly have been expected to cook them. What really made the meal, was dodging the great sprays of seawater which seemed to be straight out of the Sinbad films. Everyone had an early night after that harassing day. The next day we decided to go dolphin hunting, hoping to find the seven which we had sighted the previous day. As this was unsuccessful, we donned oilskins and went rainstorm hunting instead. Needless to say this was unsuccessful as well. So after chasing storms for hours the decision was made to head back to the mooring. The marina was a long way off so a bit of night sailing was called for. We must stress here that it is very hard to see other vessels in darkness. At one point one of us noticed a few lights in the distance, I hasten to add, not too far in the distance. **Theo**, the skipper, looked out and at the same time the lights took on the shape of a rather large liner. Although we did manage to dodge this one the next experience was an even closer shave, we were just lucky that **Steve** wasn't steering at the time! The final day was spent 'posing'. We though it was time we showed the people of Dhekelia our yacht. We anchored just off Cessac Bay (making sure we weren't behind a buoy so that they could actually see the yacht) and swam ashore. We then went into Cessac's cafe/restaurant and ordered a coffee and cake to regain our energy for the swim back. So boys and girls for the ultimate pose and a great suntan get yourself on the Royal Signals 'yacht' *Parang*. See you there!

2 SQUADRON
CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

2 Sqn were the Cross Country league champions for the second year in succession, winning six out of six league races. Individual medals also went to **Mr Robinson** first and **Cpl Cousins** fourth.

WO2 (SSM) P. Whitehouse, Maj A. Helm (OC Sqn), Mr S. Robinson, LCpl S. Chadwick, Cpls M. Gilroy and K. Cousins

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

This year the Squadron Commander, **Capt Bernie Neillings**, decided to push the boat out for the Squadron party and started getting his funds together early. It was for all HQ Squadron personnel and the civilian staff employed by the Regiment. It was a roaring success and special thanks were conveyed in the form of a bouquet presented to **Mrs Vi Wells** for her hard work in raising the funds.

The highlight of the party was the award of the Imperial Service Medal to **Mrs Rowena Veronica Morris** for more than 25 years Meritorious Service to the Crown. **Mrs Morris**, who was presented with the medal by the CO, **Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer**, had been employed by the Army in Catterick since August 1961, firstly, at 24 Sig Regt and then for some 20 years in the Royal Signals Officers' Mess.

The CO, Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer, presenting The Imperial Service Medal to Mrs Rowena Morris

2 TROOP

TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**WO1 Steve Jones**
Tp Sgt	**Graham Wilde REME**
Cpls	**'Chippy' Wood**
	Stu Conway
	Pete Plevin
	Steven Crawford

It is time to say farewell and good luck to adult recruits of 2 Troop, a combined Royal Signals and REME intake. After nine weeks intensive training they came out on top, earning the privilege of leading their pass-off parade. The troop won a very competitive, hard fought inter-troop competition which included: cross-country, a log race, the assault course, orienteering and of course 'drill'.

The troop has another notable achievement; giving up their day off to clear land behind a former church which is being converted into a club for the handicapped. The day was spent digging up two feet of concrete foundations, cutting down trees, clearing all the undergrowth and digging over the soil in preparation for a vegetable patch. The all day operation was the latest of several community tasks.

Sgt Wilde, detached from the REME, was the 'drill pig' of the course. In fact, during one OC Troop's inspection, he got a trifle over enthusiastic and saluted **WO1 Jones**, and to make matters worse, not just once, but twice. Following the tradition a bottle of Port was donated to the Permanent Staff by **Sgt Wilde**.

The highlight of the course is naturally the parade. The Reviewing Officer was, appropriately, the DGEME, **Maj Gen John Boyne CB, MBE**. After the ceremony the General first spoke to families attending the parade and then planted a tree to commemorate his visit to the Regiment.

Finally, some goodbyes and some hellos. Farewell to **WO1 'Indiana Silver Tongue' Jones**, who has been sentenced to a long stretch, pen pushing in RHQ. Goodbye to **Sgt Graham Wilde** who returns to the REME recruit training depot at Arborfield. Last, but by no means least, farewell and good luck to **Cpl**, now **Sgt 'Herr Flick' Wood** who is off to the RSDCC team at 13 Sig Regt—so watch out!

Before we end, 2 Troop would like to welcome **Lt Nick Walker** who has arrived from 21 Sig Regt, and also **Cpl John Laffey** from 1 Inf Bde who is replacing **Cpl Wood**.

Maj Gen John Boyne, DGEME, reviewing the recruits of 2 Troop on their pass off parade

The CO, Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer, presenting DGEME, Maj Gen Boyne, with the ceremonial spade prior to the tree planting

3 TROOP 'NON SINA CAUSA'

TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt Huw Wareham**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt 'Scotty' Sherrard**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Vic Bates**
	Tony Brine
	Ian Holt
	Bob Hugill

From 27 September to 27 November recruit course 8704 completed their training in 3 Troop. A small course, they made up in effort what they lacked in number. Congratulations must go to **Sig Richard**

Maj (QM) John 'Crocodile' Ient talking to Sig Chris Wells while inspecting 3 Troop during a practice pass off parade

Harper for being awarded the 'Best Shot' trophy and **Sig Ben Reynolds** for the 'Best Recruit' award. **Cpl Bob Hugill** and 3 Section must get special congratulations for winning the 'Best Section' award. Finally all the Permanent Staff wish all our ex recruits good luck in their trade training.

SPONSORED BED PUSH

On Saturday 21 November, the recruits of 3 Troop completed an arduous afternoon's charity work which took the form of a sponsored bed push with Darlington Hospital in aid of Care of the Elderly. Two beds, well loaded down with nurses, were pushed around the Garrison. The event was enjoyed by all who took part, especially the nurses who obtained a chauffeured tour of the training area. On several downhill stretches we all felt that the land speed record for beds was broken. The bed push raised in excess of £1,200 with **Sig 'Scouse' Byrne** getting a special mention for raising £141 of sponsorship. The day was rounded off with a troop party, for all who took part, in the evening.

3 Troop and Darlington Hospital's sponsored bed push

Lt Huw Wareham presenting the sponsorship money to Nurse Anne McGuiness. OC 1 Sqn, Maj Barney Hill looks on

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

January and February have been filled with exercises—all good fun! Both Ex White Lightning and Ex Flying Falcon have been learning exercises for several of our newcomers into the Regiment. Ex White Lightning being a Regimental Field Training Exercise (FTX) and Ex Flying Falcon a 1 (BR) Corps Comms FTX. The news so far is that the results are good and the Regiment is performing.

We welcome to the Regiment two new Squadron Commanders, **Maj John Steed** (OC 2 Sqn) and **Maj Lance Byrne** (OC 3 Sqn), both on arrival from jobs with BAOR—good luck to them! 1 Sqn has a new 2IC, **Capt John Lugg** from 5 AB Sig Sqn and 2 Sqn also has a new side kick, **Capt Rod Goddard**, who has just arrived from a six month tour in the Falklands. To all new members and their families—welcome. Sadly, we say goodbye to **Maj Bob Williamson**, who was affectionately known as 'The Cowboy'; he finally managed to escape after four years in 14. **Capt Peter Westwell** has also gone back to Blighty, much to his pleasure. As much as he loves Germany, 10 years is a long time and he will be sorely missed (especially for German translations!).

Whoops—Not yet quite out of sight or out of mind (I'm only joking!) the Adjutant, **Capt David Tiffin** departs for bigger and better things, ORLO at Blandford.

In his place we welcome **Capt Alan Madsen**, who seems to be settling in well, he is never in the office!

Congratulations must go to **WO1 Carty, WO1 Morley** and **WO1 Seaword** on being selected for commissioning.

HQ SQUADRON

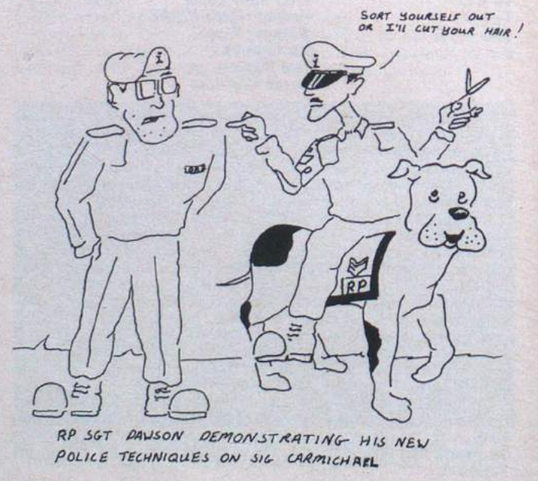
Once again 2IC of HQ Sqn, **Capt Brian Dearman** was seen to be stalking the Squadron lines for days muttering Wire notes when he looked in on the SQMS and found the answer to his problem. **Sig Ian Bain** was busily drawing a cartoon so—here are a few cartoons that show one or two characters of SHQ Tp.

Firstly **Sig 'Baz' Carmichael** of MT Tp fame is being educated yet again by our adorable RP Sergeant, **Sgt Pete Dawson**, part time hairdresser and dog handler.

Next is our SQMS (the artist's boss) **SSgt Derek Witchell** depicted on one of his quieter pre exercise preparation days—what a brave man our artist is!

Don't worry, the lovable SSM **WO2 'Black' Bob McKenzie** has not escaped although we could not print any of the captions!

Do I hear a sigh of relief from the OC **Maj Eddie Kellett**, well, don't worry, there are more to come!



Stop Press: Members of HQ Sqn may obtain copies of the SSM cartoon from OC PRI. Why not add your own caption or have it framed to adorn your room!

1 SQUADRON
EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

With only a week between Ex White Lightning and Ex Flying Falcon the Squadron has had a busy start to the year. We deployed to Falcon locations thinking that the weather could not hold and the inevitable freezing nights would soon be upon us. However, we were to be proved wrong again. We found ourselves trying to overcome conditions that one would normally associate with a wet May! In the first few days the LAD support team were kept busy performing recovery tasks but as drivers adjusted to the unusual conditions things soon settled down.

Our task on the exercise was to provide EW support to the Corps and this we did most successfully. Our Vampire and Bromure detachments played a large part and are to be congratulated on their results.

Squadron Command Post (SCP) elements were also tested with SCP 2 Sqn joining them in the field to control the additional elements deployed. This exercise in inter-squadron co-operation was also most successful with all detachments receiving fuel rations and stores on time, in correct quantities.

Finally, on a sad note, the Corps Commanders' visit to us was cancelled at the last moment. However the troops in the field are most grateful for the eclairs and strawberry tarts that were earmarked for the visit—delicious!

WHISKY TROOP

We have had many personality changes within the troop. We have said goodbye to **SSgts Calland** and **Maddison, Sgt Poulter** and **LCpl Robertson**. We wish them all well in their new homes.

We have also said a tearful farewell to our troop OC **Capt Jonathan Perks** and welcome in his place **Lt Ian Lawrence**. We wish both every success.

On the military skills side of life we continue to maintain our high profile within the Regiment. Although we did not manage to repeat last year's success, we did manage a creditable third place in the Colonel's Cup Competition. This, coupled with the first place achieved by our X Troop neighbours, enabled the Squadron to retain the trophy.

The Troop is proud to have numerous sporting gladiators in its ranks and congratulate the following on being regularly selected to represent the Regiment:- **Cpl Gibbs** (rugby and football); **Cpls Dunn** and **Armstrong** (football); **Cpls Walsh** and **Wise** (cross country); **LCpls Beaton, Ackland-Snow** and **Lester** (rugby); **LCpl Shrives** (football); **LCpls Broniman** and **Whichelo** (orienteering) and **Sig Proud** (cross country).

X-RAY TROOP

A few changes took place, of which the most significant was **WO2 (Q) 'Geordie' Doughty** who departed to faraway places (the other end of the corridor!) **'Mr' (not Q) Bull** arrived from the other side of the world to take his place (Australia, in case you are wondering!).

Other new arrivals included an all star TV cast; **'Baldrick' (alias LCpl Girling); 'Tiddles' (Cpl Tidswell); 'Campole (LCpl Bennet); 'Skippy' (WO2 Bull); 'Ali McGraw'** and **'Stingray', LCpl Tondeur** and **Cpl Hukin** need to become more famous! Moving over to let them in, bye bye to **'Daz' Middleton** (lucky old Berlin, eh?), **Wally Walsh** to W Troop (renegade!); **'Scouse' Bond** has successfully escaped from the Regiment and our **APTI Danny Kaye** has escaped from the Army.

As we were all so good on Ex White Lightning, we got another chance to see the countryside on Ex Rising Star (not a punishment!) before we go away on the real thing, Ex Flying Falcon. (Will this be our last chance to do Rising Star II?). How can we go wrong? we've got a new combat skid lid!

JULIET TROOP

The Troop would like to say it still is part of the Regiment and growing rapidly with a few new arrivals into the Troop.

Well done to OC Juliet Tp for passing his German course—makes a change on his English!

FAREWELLS

We are glad to say we are getting 'rid of' our medic **LCpl Martin (och aye the noo) Carty** with a high voice who is being posted to 'sunny' Catterick in April 1988, (only joking!).

Congratulations to **SSgt Mick Halford** on his promotion and we are sorry to see him move to 3 Sqn. We wish **Cpl 'Perfect Pete' Gosney** and his family all the best in 3 ADSR.

ARRIVALS

We welcome to this unique Troop **LCpl Bonser (Bonso)** and his family, **LCpl Dean Clifford** and his family, **Cpl Bob 'the Skinhead' Morrice** and **Sig Greenway (Taffy Boyo)**, who is a single lad and a great catch, girls!

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

PAY OFFICE HOST LOCAL BANK

During the festive season the staff of the Pay Office invited their opposite numbers from the local Branch of the Sparkasse Krefeld, Kempener Feld, to drinks. The Regiment and several soldiers have accounts at this Branch. This annual occasion provides an opportunity to maintain our good relations with the bank staff whose co-operation and understanding in such financial matters as soldiers' overdrafts is much appreciated!

A bribe from the CO?—*(L to R)* Herr Balter, the branch manager, receives a presentation from Lt Col David Lowe in recognition of the close ties between the Sparkasse Krefeld and the Regiment. Also in the picture are Herr Jannsen and Paymaster, Capt Bruce Minty

RUGBY

The alternative Rugby team appeared for its annual Christmas fixture. On this occasion it was the Boys versus the Girls in aid of charity. **Sgts Tom Davies** and **Pete Griffiths** were the main organisers and **Lt Max Tait** captained the Girls team. To even the odds the boys had to submit to a number of handicaps such as legs tied together and donning fancy dress outfits. The score was vital as each point meant more money for charity. The final result was a resounding victory for the Girls 53—12. A total of DM 652 was raised from which a donation to the Krefeld Scout Group has been made. Afterwards **Capt Alison Mann** was overheard saying that she had 'not had such a ball in a long while'.

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Celia Staples WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt (Tfc) Geoff Downey**
OC X Tp	**Capt Alison Mann**
YofS	**WO2 Ron Allan**
FofS	**WO2 Tony Sarginson**
SSM	**WO2 Maggie McKendrick**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Knight**
Tp SSgt O Tp	**SSgt Angie Warnes**
Tp SSgt X Tp	**FSgt Ian Weetch**
SSgt Crypto	**SSgt Price**
SSgt Syscon	**SSgt Graves**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Since the last *Wire* Notes, there has been a large turnover in the Squadron, too many to mention them all. We therefore wish all those personnel leaving the Squadron good luck and best wishes for the future. A special mention however must go to our retired Admin Offr/OC X Tp **Capt Carol Mohan** for all the hard work she put into the Squadron during her time and we wish her well on her discharge from the Army, and hope she finds happiness in civilian life.

PROMOTIONS

A number of people are to be congratulated on their promotion and they are as follows: To Sergeant: **Dave Leaning**. To Corporal: **Rob O'Hara, Debbie Burwell, Pat Morrisey, Angie Sparling, Mac Duff** and **Steve Meldrum**. To Lance Corporal: **Alana Dempsey, Val Lamb** and **Roxanne Harari**.

RECENT EVENTS

9 November was 1 Sqn's CO's day, during which **Lt Col D. J. Lowe** visited the Exchange, Commcen, Systems, SHQ, and the accommodation. December saw the change over of Comd Comms BAOR, and the new Commander, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** visited us.

NEW YEAR

Most people managed to get a short break and 1988 has started with a fresh impetus in all areas (except the Yeomans car). This year promises to be very exciting for the 'first' Squadron, starting with the implementation of Ptarmigan into JHQ, Squadron and Regimental battlecamps, Adventure Training etc and ending with the completion of the Trend/950/ETD fit within the Squadrons dependent Commcens.

PTARMIGAN ARRIVES

At 1530 hrs on Wednesday 13 January 1988, the first of the two switches drove through the gate of the JHQ compound closely followed by two power vehicles, an ERV and an ESV. The vehicles will form the very first static Ptarmigan Node providing real communications 24 hours a day 365 days a year. By 29 January 1988 it is hoped that JHQ will be 'Ptarmiganised' and we will be saying goodbye to Bruin. The Node Command is dismounted in the Syscon area within BAOR Commcen—the first of its kind and another first for the First Squadron.

Pte Debs Cooper in the RDC preparing messages for delivery to one of our 250 or so clearances in BAOR Commcen

It's that man again LCpl Mac Duff still trying to repair a Trend PTA. Ptes Lisa Livesey and Lisa May as you can see by the look on their faces are really impressed by his expertise

LCpl Angie Tempest (now at Blandford) connects a Bruin subscriber to a DSSS subscriber—we have the technology

A Shift on duty—DSO Sgt Alan Gill casually pretends he is not being photographed. Pte Roz Rennie (now 13 Sig Regt) casually pretends she is being photographed! The tech LCpl Mac Duff casually pretends to be working!

LCpl Judith Chapple decides she can't beat them so she is joining them by learning Ptarmigan on the CBT training package

Pte Jane Headon cross-officing on the electronic log. Her smile indicates that it's nearly 5 o'clock

3 SQUADRON SHQ TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Andy Ward**
2IC	**Capt Phil Daisey**
SSM	**WO2 John McCaffery**
SQMS	**SSgt Keith Dunn**
YofS	**SSgt Pete Dignam**
FofS	**SSgt Steve Roberts**
Sqn Clerk	**Miss Martina Rowland**

Since our last report the Squadron has undergone a major manpower and equipment reorganisation, thereby bringing us into line with other field communicating Squadrons within BAOR.

The latter part of 1987 was particularly busy with Alpha Tp embarking on a Clansman conversion programme prior to relinquishing the HF commitment that it has carried out since the late 60s. Special mention has to be made regarding **SSgt Dave Fisher**'s efforts; he designed and carried out the modifications that enables the equipment to fulfil its new role.

We all wait with bated breath to see whether **SSgt Dave Fisher** (NRPS Mould Controller, Scotland) will depart from us before our D13's are finally put to rest. November saw the majority of our Ptarmigan assets arrive and the forming of Delta Tp (TN 036) and as will be seen from the Troop notes it wasn't all plain sailing!

DELTA TROOP

Tp OC	**'Sgt Tedby**, what is the troop doing today?'
Tp Sgt	'He's washing our wagon Sir'

During 1979 the Delta Tp Commcen was disbanded and sent to 21 Sig Regt. During November 1987 Delta Tp was reborn in a different guise, Trunk Node 036—the problem was that nobody knew! The new Troop Commander, **Lt Martin Prodger**, arrived fresh from the learning halls of Blandford bulging with ideas and duty free, only to find his Troop Sergeant, **Sgt Fred Tedby**, away in UK playing Regimental Basketball. On parading the Troop, **Lt Prodger** discovered the following: a kettle, a desk, a telephone and **Sig Kevin Attwood**. 'Don't worry Sir, at least you will have someone to make the tea. Do you take NATO standard?'.

There followed a breathtaking train of victories fought against ridiculous odds to seize vehicles, equipment and men. The hierarchy began to develop with the arrival of **SSgt Amstel Lawrence**, from 2 Div in York and **Sgt 'mind my rib' Beswick** from next door in F Troop.

Delta Tp has subsequently grown from 2 in November to 31 in just two months, an achievement that speaks wonders for Manning and Records and Squadron Ops.

Although there is a lot of work entailed in forming a new troop, already there are plans afoot for the other side of life such as social events and an Adventure Training Exercise. As we go to press the race is still on to meet our operational activity date of 1 February. This is when we deploy on the Regimental Ex Primary Class; yet there are still questions being raised within the Troop office. 'Sir, I know this Ptarmigan is good kit, but how do we hold 14 links with only two RR dets?'.

ALPHA TROOP

The arrival of 1988 brought with it a few changes, not least to Troop morale. There are sad farewells to **Capt Nigel Gill** who departs for the dizzier heights of Berlin as Adjutant leaving Alpha Tp in the capable hands of **2Lt Andy Saddington**. We also bid farewell to **LCpl Duffy, Cpls Tidswell** and **Brown**. Last but by no means least, we extend our gratitude and best wishes for the future to **SSgt Dave Fisher** who has opted for a civilian life in Scotland. His contributions throughout the Troop and the Squadron will be sadly missed. Good luck to them all.

Belated congratulation to **Cpl Bailey** on his promotion. We hope that the pressure does not become too great for those great shoulders, wide as they are to bear.

ALPHA TROOP LUGE TEAM

'Luge! What's that? Isn't that when you propel yourself down a bobsleigh run on a one-man sledge at about 60mph? You want me to do that? Willingly!'. And so it came to be that the new Troop OC gently persuaded a few of the more hardy/crazy individuals of A Troop to 'volunteer' for the Army Selection weekend at Munster during October 1987. One training session later and **Sig Fardy, Gree** and **Flemming** were chosen to attend the UK Luge Championships in January. The selection weekend was long and torturous and really did

sort the men out from the boys. The mere thought of enjoying this sport seemed a long way off. The exhilaration felt during a good run now puts all that pain behind us, as well as about half a mile of ice. Those few lucky enough to be selected must now train for the 1992 Olympic Games. The road to selection for the UK Luge Team will not be easy and will involve four months of training every year, physical fitness, participating in Luge runs around Europe and keeping away from injury. It is hoped that the A Troop team members will stay in one piece and eventually reach their goal of a place in the 1992 Olympics. News has just reached us that **Sig Shaun Fardy** has come runner-up in the British Luge Novices Championships and has been seeded for the National Team.

GOLF TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO2 John Wooders**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mick McDonald**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Pete Cornes**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt Mal Turfrey**
WRAC Sgt	**Sgt Glynis Blight**

TROOP ROLE

Golf Tp is mainly responsible for communications within Bradbury barracks which includes MAN005/ALT BSF HQ and the static commcen. The Troop has a strength of 36 of which 10 are WRAC Data Telegraphists and Switchboard ops. Formed in its present format only recently the Troop was one of the first in the Regiment to have all of its Ptarmigan assets although the dismounted Node Command, Message Centre and 70 Subsets are not what you find in your usual Major Access Node.

TROOP NEWS

From our formation in July 1987 to the present has been a busy period but it has not been all work.

He who should be obeyed, **WO2 John Wooders**, reached the start of life (40) not with a bang but with a slap in the face with a custard pie. He would like to pass his thanks to the chefs of the Regiment for the real cake and let them know it is being put to good use in the multi gym.

EXERCISE ABLE ARCHER

The Troop was put to the test on Ex Able Archer and was not found wanting. It deployed all of 20km to Leloh TX site near JHQ where fun was had by all trying to engineer Ptarmigan over the Diginet link to Bielefeld. A lot was learned about Ptarmigan on this, the first real test of the Troop, in its comms role.

Square eyes and pan bash hands were achieved by some Troop members however. **Cpl Andy Andrews** and **LCpl John Skevington** have been writing to OIC MRO asking for **Pte Palm Olive** to be posted in before they have to touch another potato.

ALT BSF HQ

The refurbishment and extension of Alt BSF has been going on for some time and led by **Sgt Mal Turfrey** the Troop linemen and technicians have been installing the static Ptarmigan system. Working long hours and only emerging for NAAFI breaks they have kept to the timetable and ensured all is ready and tested for the staff on Ex Flying Falcon and Ex Fast Buck

HELLO, GOODBYE AND CONGRATULATIONS

Although only just formed, there have been numerous comings and goings and weddings, so:- Goodbye to **Cpl Nick Parkyn** and **WLCpl Bausor** posted to UK, **Sig Al Hawes** to civvy street and **Pte Elaine Barnes** to civvy street and marriage; **Pte Doreen Marr** posted to 1 Sqn; **Pte Michelle Hindson** to civvy street. Hello to **Cpl 'Taff' Alden** and **Sgt Glynis Blight**. Congratulations, three weddings in the Troop in three months, **LCpl 'Bamber' Gascoyne** to **Pte Annette Holden, Pte Sandy Hewitt,** and also **Pte (now LCpl) Tracy Smith**.

We've been serving the Services since 1785.

Since Gieves made uniforms for Admiral Nelson and Hawkes attended the Duke of Wellington's sartorial needs, we have maintained a steadfast tradition to serve the Officer in all aspects of dress.

Today, our commitment to the forces is as strong as ever and we now visit BAOR twice a year to meet our valued customers.

Times may have changed, but still we give the present day Officer exactly what we gave our earliest illustrious customers – good, old-fashioned service.

GIEVES & HAWKES
No. 1 Savile Row, London

Your officially appointed tailors and outfitters.

No. 1 Savile Row, London. Tel: 01-434 2001. 1 High Street, Camberley, Surrey. Tel: 0276 63659.

3 SQUADRON

The Squadron has had a number of visits and achievements over the last few months. A notable achievement was the regaining of the Regimental Inter-Squadron Cross-Country Trophy when a strong 3 Sqn team easily took the trophy from last year's winners, 1 Sqn. The Trophy now resides in SHQ.

Visits to the Squadron have included the visit from Comd Comms **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** who was briefed by the OC Squadron **Maj Bob Bates**. A full demonstration of the work carried out by G Troop, ACPO followed and the airfield troops displayed the equipment used by them to provide and maintain airfield communications.

On 14 January the Comd Elec Eng HQ RAF (G) **Gp Capt K. J. McPhee** visited SHQ, and also Golf Tp and Kilo Tp.

Squadron personalities will change in April with the departure of **SSgt (SQMS) Martin Richards**, his wife **Sandra** and family to 28 Sig Regt after his Guards Drill Course at Pirbright in February. The Squadron wish the SQMS all the best on his course and also to him and his family in their new posting.

Continuing the saga of **Sgt Pete 'Flowerpot' Searle**: all his hard work in bulb rearing has not been in vain. 3 Sqn SHQ now boasts the only (even as we speak) flowering daffodils in the station due to his green fingers and the mild weather.

Part of 3 Sqn which is rarely mentioned is ACPO (Airfield Communication Project Office), situated at JHQ Rheindahlen, the following personalities form the office: **Capt (TOT) Brian Billsberry, WO2 (FofS) Bruce Wyllie, SSgts Kevin East, Graham Hillhouse** and **Sig Jake Jacobs.**

Unfortunately ACPO will shortly be losing its Foreman to the sunnier climes of Gibraltar, he and his family go with the best wishes of the Squadron.

Visit of Maj Gen P. R. Davies—Comd Comms BAOR
The Comd discusses the intricacies of dealing with 100 Pr Cable with Cpl Forbes-Wilson

H TROOP (RAF BRUGGEN)
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Keith Russell**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Steve Hilton**
NCO i/c Tech	**Sgt Bill Stadius**
Projects Sgt	**Sgt Steve Dobson**
Maint Sgt	**Sgt 'Pip' Piper**
MT Cpl	**Cpl 'Geordie' Brown**
Q Troop	**LCpl Steve Brice**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Once again the sound of MFO boxes resound around the quarters and the Troop would like to extend a hearty and warm welcome to **Sgt Steve Dobson**, his wife **Pat** and their son **Paul.** We hope you have a good tour.

As we welcome the new we must also sadly say farewell and good luck to a couple of stalwart Troop members, namely **LCpl Mick Mottram** and family who are off to Loughborough after five years on Station. Also, we say goodbye to **Cpl Al Jones** and family off to 641 Tp to join the cavemen.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Troop wishes to extend its hearty congratulations to **Sig Richie Gathercole** and his wife **Yvonne** on the birth of their baby boy **Christopher**, who weighed in at 8lb 6oz on 28 January 1988.

To **Cpl Al Jones**, well done on your promotion.

SEWING CLASSES?

H Troop has, for some time now, been renowned for 'stitching' people up.

The trio of main offenders are **Cpls 'Geordie' Brown** and **John Tadman**, ably assisted by **Sig Andy Rushworth**. over the past five months the OC has had a ferry booking cancelled, **Cpl Derek Carman** received a birthday kissogram he will never forget and, to **SSgt Steve Hilton**'s total amazement, a perfectly normal PT session was turned into a Jane Fonda aerobics session.

The newest member of the Troop, **Sig 'Cushy' Butterfield** found himself searching RAF Bruggen's Supply outlets for a roll of dial tones!

That was the past, what of the future? Will **Sig 'When I' Easby** find himself being posted to a new Airborne Infantry Brigade, then practise fieldcraft whilst the remainder of the Troop enjoy some refreshments? This author thinks he will. Then again, many more outstanding Troop members should look over their shoulders.

ANOTHER FIRST FOR H TROOP AND RAF BRUGGEN

After the RAF fitting party had completed the installation of our new Ptarmigan Equipment, it was left to H Troop to open up the new link with JHQ. This was achieved and when the switch came on line two days later, RAF Bruggen was the first clutch airfield to join the New Peacetime Ptarmigan Net. By the time this goes to print, the old Bruin Equipment will be dismantled.

SPORTS
H TROOP vs 431 MU MTSS RUGBY MATCH

The score line: H Troop 6—431 MU MTSS 15

As the Troop football team is doing well, it was decided that a venture into the world of the oval ball was needed.

The score line tells that H Troop does not have an experienced rugby side, in fact for the majority of the side this was a first. The blue jobs scored (courtesy of a strong following wind) all of their points in the first half. As much as the first half was all blue jobs, the second half was an entirely different story. As the Troop began to play as a team (as opposed to a disjointed assembly) our score grew. The pressure applied by 'H' came too late and the whistle blew for the end of the second half. The teams then retired to the Troop 'Tea Bar' where the third half was a resounding success and we look forward with anticipation to the return match.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FAREWELL VISIT

The CO made his farewell visit to H Troop on 12 January accompanied by **WO1 (RSM) A. McBain**. After an update from **Capt Keith Russell** on the current workload and completed tasks, which was combined with morning coffee, he then held his interview session, greeting new arrivals and saying farewell to those leaving.

Col Turner and the RSM then had a walk about the Troop lines meeting the SNCO's and seeing what they had achieved since his last visit.

A visit to the Flight Line Bunker found **Sig Chris Alger** and **Darren Hilton** reinstating comms after a refit by PSA. This involved stripping out all comms in order to re-lay the floor. The CO saw a considerable difference and was very impressed by the high standard of workmanship.

On approaching the next venue, 'The Crossbow Club' we found **Cpl Derek Carman** busy with the measuring wheel, establishing how much cable he would need for the new installation to the NAAFI, a project that would be undertaken in conjunction with DBP. After a

Commanding Officer's Visit—12 January 1988

Rear Row: LCpl Hodgson, Sig O'Brien, Price, Cpl Griffiths, Sig Butterfield, LCpl Mottram, Sig Rushworth, LCpl Wainwright, Sig Bennett and Lewis

Centre Row: LCpl Johnson, Sig Macpherson, Cpls Jones, Tadman, Sig Easby, Cfn Smith, Cpls Brown, Quinn, McKenzie, LCpls Brice, Gotheridge, Egan and Sig Alger

Front Row: Cpls Dix, Carman, Sgts Jackson, Stadius, Capt Russell, Lt Col Turner, SSgt Hilton, Mrs Brough, Sgt Piper, Cpls McLay and Shotton

brief discussion with **Cpl Carman** the CO continued up to the new Club. He was met at the door by the NAAFI Manager, **Mr Andy Kellagher**, who then showed the CO and RSM round the new disco bars and lastly the Corporals Club. Both visitors were pleased that the new facility was now open and popular with Troop members.

Last stop on the visit was to see **Cpl John Tadman**, who was busy terminating a new cable in SHQ. The CO, although familiar with the technique of insulation displacement connection, declined to terminate any of the pairs with the krone tool.

At midday, with the Troop assembled in the Tea Bar, named 'The Frog and Radiator', the CO was given two presentations—**Sig Andy Rushworth** and the OC giving him a unique troop plaque and a framed photo which had been taken by the Jaguar Gate Guard in front of SHQ on a previous visit. **Col Turner** then said a few words to the Troop and joined them for lunch. The CO rang the bell and invited the Troop to join him in a drink, this resulted in an impromptu beercall which ended at 2130 hrs. The CO and RSM left for Wildenrath after an informative and well planned visit.

K TROOP EXERCISE WILD WELSHMAN—OR WAS IT EXERCISE PASS THE BUCK?

Ex Wild Welshman was well into its second gruelling day when a priority message was received in RAF Wildenrath Operations Centre. I must have the notes for *The Wire* by tomorrow signed **WO2 (SSM) 'Whoops that polish is dangerous' Terry Hughes**.

After long deliberation it was decided to pass the message to **SSgt Dick Taylor** who after all, was on the Directing Staff and therefore had nothing else to occupy the long dark hours. 'Well', said **Dick** in his polished accent, 'let's get all the departments to write a few words so—here we go'.

THE TECHS

The Technical Department is controlled by **Sgt Colin Williamson** and has undergone a major move in the last couple of months namely off the floor of hanger 7 to a more compact unit in the top corridor of the hangar. The move necessitated the redesign of the old workbench, no problem when you give an extra hacksaw to **Cpl Steve 'Rolly' Christie** and even larger hammer to **Cpl Pete 'One more push and it will go' Turner**. The two lads were ably watched by **Sgt Chris 'my cars U/S' Davison**. The move was completed and the Technical Department is now within easy shouting distance of K Troop OC **Capt 'Tough of the Track' Bailes**.

The other great upheaval of the past weeks has been the installation of Ptarmigan on the airfield. The equipment had been consolidating its position in **LCpl 'Radar' Crawfords**'s SWS store and when all was ready the faithful 'Gang of four' Techs attacked the WOC and within a short time the RAF was handed a shining new system.

THE TELEMECHS

The lads have had a busy time fitting the new Station Transport and Management Aid (STAMA) computer system into the Station MT Flight. This was achieved by **Cpl '2nd Lt' Duncan** and his crew which consisted of **Cpl Hague** and **LCpl Curril** of 2 Sqn with **LCpl 'Scouse' Moriarty** who supplied the non-stop commentary on any subject you like as long as its football. The maintenance teams controlled by **Sgt 'Hot Locks' Moore** are making inroads into the ASM and Admin systems with **Cpl Doug Whitelaw** and **LCpl 'Taff' Skinner** finishing off the complete rewire of Charlie Dispersal at last. This has been considered for serialisation by BBC TV.

NEW ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome back **Sig 'Charlie' Mathews** after his recent boxing tour, tough luck **Charlie**, and wish him good luck on his forthcoming Rugby Tour. The Troop would also like to welcome **Sig 'Mac' McKeown, 'Ulcers' Rosenfield** and **Tarr**. Have a good tour lads.

QUOTES OF EXERCISE WILD WELSHMAN

RAF User	'My Hadley is u/s'.
K Tp Control	'OK, where is it?'
RAF User	'On my desk of course'.
USAF Tech to OC K Tp	'Hey man are you Scottish?'.
OC K Tp	'Why Aye Man'.

L TROOP

THE FIRST SOLIDER TO FLY IN A TORNADO AIRCRAFT

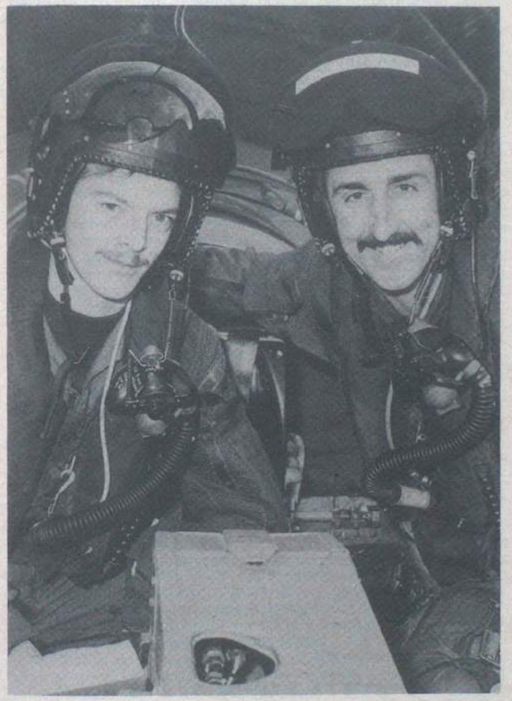
It is not strange to see L Troop leading the way amongst the Airfield Signal Troops, but we were particularly pleased to be offered the first passenger flight in a Tornado Aircraft in recognition of the splendid service we provide for our RAF hosts.

After a raffle in the Troop, **LCpl 'Johno' Johnstone** was pleased to be the lucky soldier chosen to take up this offer.

On the morning of 11 December, after being fitted with all the relevant clothing, and briefed on the mission to be undertaken, **LCpl 'Johno' Johnstone** was installed in the aircraft by his pilot **Sqn Ldr Roger Sunderland** of 16 Sqn (The Saints). Eventually, after what seemed like an endless list of pre checks, a rather white faced **LCpl Johnstone**'s aircraft took off as one of a two ship battle mission which included a high speed, high level run to the north of Germany, followed by some low level attacks, aerobatics and a run-down a bombing range in Holland.

Upon return to Laarbruch, it was just a case of disposing of the full sick bags, a few drinks in the Officer's Crew Room and then to tell the story over and over again to try and make the rest of the Troop as green as he was on landing.

Seriously though, we are very grateful to the RAF and to all concerned in allowing one of the Troop this great experience.



LCpl 'Johno' Johnstone and his pilot Sqn Ldr Roger Sunderland

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

RHQ PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col Jerry Barrett**
2IC	**Maj Charles Kemp**
OPS Offr	**Maj Bob Binham**
Adjut	**Capt Gordon Rafferty**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Trevor Johnson**
Supt Clk	**WO1 (SC) Colin Beston**

2 SQN

OC	**Maj Tony Manders**
2IC	**Capt Tim Wadey**
OC D Tp	**Lt George Odling**
OC E Tp	**Lt Neil Longley**
OC F Tp	**2Lt Tony Urwin**
SSM	**WO2 Mo Harkin**
SQMS	**SSgt Wally Drain**
YofS	**SSgt Peter Barron**
FofS	**SSgt Gary Anetts**

At the end of the year 2 Sqn said farewell to the OC **Maj Paul Gorford**, and welcome to **Maj Tony Manders. Maj Paul Gorford** has gone back to the UK to work with the TA in Liverpool. In contrast **Maj Tony Manders** arrived from SHAPE, having spent his last six months in the Falklands. He was joined there by **FofS West**, his replacement being **FofS Annetts** straight from the sausage machine.

Handover parade between Squadron Commanders Maj Paul Gorford and Maj Tony Manders

The Christmas period began and ended with Regimental Exercises. 2 Sqn can claim Regimental 'Sweet Martini' colours having fielded the Squadron fully for both (all be it assuming OSC 139's moniker for one exercise). Attempts to gas the OSC through the NBC unit failed; the store and forward gained an airworthiness certificate; an ERV learned about lying down to sleep for the night and it snowed for the first time this year, just as Endex was called. This will no doubt prove to be a worthwhile training base when we deploy for the Corps Communication and CP Exercises later in the year. We have had a constant stream of soldiers going off to enjoy the delights of Ex Snow Queen and returning from Bavaria a little browner and fitter. **Maj Paul Gorford** was one of the first to go on a family's course and they and subsequent courses have skiied every day in this different year. Finally our best wishes go to **Paul Weston** and **Sig Bugside Moran** who have left on posting recently; to **Cpl Ian Donald** on his recent marriage and **Cpl Andy Maynard** on his forthcoming marriage. We would also like to congratulate **Mandy** and **Cpl Andy Saunders** on the birth of their daughter.

EXERCISE SWEET MARTINI (AN OBSERVERS VIEWPOINT)

This was bound to be a good exercise, having spent the whole week before it on Regimental trade training, and it was!

The exercise got off to a very good start.

The main aim of the exercise was to practise the Regiment in its 'setting up' and its 'tear down' procedures. In other words an exercise

NBC Phases of Sweet Martini
Vehicle Decontamination

to practise movement. A fact made very obvious by **2Lt Tim Carmichael** completing a hot recce for his node TN016, by the time full communications had been established at around 1830B on the Monday. Then it was all go again with all of 2 Sqn and 3 Sqn moving on Wednesday and Thursday nights respectively. A total of 21 moves in 96 hours by six nodes, or one move every 27.25 hrs on average. TN014 spent the longest time in any one location, whilst **Lt John Fraser** hosted **Brig Tim Waugh MBE**, Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps at his node. With the nodes bouncing around at this speed, it goes without saying that the access was being moved just as fast. This was under the control of 4 Sqn who ran the FLUC Truck. (Flank Liaison Umpire Communications).

All of this movement was not aided by the damp weather before and during the exercise. To be on the safe side **Lt Tony Urwin** requested a Wrecker every time his node TN015 moved! By Endex he thought that he had finally got it right but was forced to re-trade as a 'Wrecky Mech' when he spent eight hours 'Unbogging' two of **Lt Neil Longley**'s Radio Relays, at TN013.

Finally after a freak snow storm, the newly trained 'wrecky mech'; **Lt Tony Urwin** did his last good deed for the exercise. When passing through the Regimental release point he picked up two hitchers in the form of the new OC 2 Sqn **Maj Tony Manders** and his 2IC **Capt Tim Wadey** after their Rover had lost power and died on them! Phew what a good exercise.

4 SQUADRON
COMINGS AND GOINGS

The troops have had some additions and subtractions since the last copy. Firstly on the soldiering front we waved bye bye to 14 of our mates who went all the way down to 1 Sqn. However, they still hang around our garages with their pockets bulging (full of rubies). Then we lost a stalwart in **Danny Fennelly** who is retrading to become an RTg in Catterick; he will be sadly missed and his ice-cream van has gone into mothballs.

Then, on the addition side, bags of sprogs and luggage labels saying 'please look after this sprog'. Many thanks to 8 Sig Regt for 'processing' this fine body of men.

The squadron has held parties, small affairs lasting from December to January. The Squadron must thank all those who made them so much fun, especially **WO2 Bill Hutton** and **SSgt Mick Brown**. Since it's 'Confidential' time again all the squadron has gone wild with starch and bulled boots. I don't go for that sort of thing myself, a small cheque has always sufficed. (Thanks . . . UPO, and the authors Tp Comd).

Special welcome to baby **McDonagh** and **Anderson** and congratulations to the proud parents.

HQ SQN MT

PERSONALITIES

MTO	**Capt Ian 'I'm going to play golf' Turner**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Keith 'UK Leave' Bridger**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Roy 'Tp Scribe' Gratton**
Sgt	**Sgt Pete 'Docs Check' Casson RCT**

Supplying buses, mini-buses, drivers and the occasional waiter for almost every Troop/Squadron party, the troop has now settled down to apply itself to another full year of exercises, transport, outside areas, units, outside areas again and more visits.

DEPARTURES

The recent months have seen the departure of many members of the troop, the most recent being: **Cpl Del Rankin**—30 Sig Regt. **LCpl 'Bing' Crosbie**—227 Sig Regt, **Sig Nick Nicholls**—262 Sig Sqn and **Sig Dick Brookes**—14 Sig Regt. Good luck and all the best wishes in your new postings.

All members of the troop wish to extend a hearty welcome to our one new arrival: **LCpl Bob Gudgeon** from Catterick. Nobody has yet told him just how busy he is going to be.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **LCpl** and **Mrs 'Ginge' Dyson** on the birth of their son and to **Dvr** and **Mrs Dave Kent** on the birth of their daughter.

22 SIG REGT LAD REME
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt C. R. Twentyman**
AQMS	**WO2 C. R. Medcalfe**

The LAD's highlight of last year was Ex Keystone!

This was an occasion for 'bafflement' for many of the younger elements of the Unit from 'The Factory' at Bordon.

The sight of the 'tent city', Kohima Camp, and many senior officers, caused looks of bewilderment, which, in the case of **Cfn 'Ivor' Biggin**, appears to have become a permanent fixture.

Many equipments which were presented for repair were far outside the normal workload of the LAD and a lot of experience was gained by the young tradesmen in a short period, especially the 'Flying Fitters' in the hands of **Sgt 'Robbie' Robinson**. The culmination of the exercise was to have been the final recovery task the LAD carried out on one of 4 Sqn's Triffids which had the unfortunate experience of ending up in a field with both axles ripped off. The recovery team consisted of OC LAD, AQMS LAD, **SSgt 'Topper' Brown, Sgt Cfn Dale** and 2 Inf Div LAD Recovery Mech. Surely the most expensive recovery team of all time!

NEWS FROM QUARTERMASTER TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT CRVs, CIVs

Since our last report, there has been considerable movement of personnel through the R&I bay. A major task was experienced when it became time to change the OIC Rugby (Ops) we mean Quartermaster. **Maj (QM) Russell Gainford** (known affectionately as 'Geordie') was informed by PB11 that if he moved sideways for a short time to command HQ Sqn he would be delighted when he received his next posting! (Silly boy). However, the system managed to prise him from his chair with great difficulty and to mutterings of 'I love this job'. In his place from 4 Div Sig Regt we welcome **Capt (QM) Ian Buckley** and his wife **Julie** and hope they have a happy and successful tour here in Lippstadt. To **Maj (QM) 'Geordie'** and **Brenda Gainford** we say thank you for your help and humour during the past three years and wish them every success in their new appointment.

We also say cheerio to **Sig Dave Alsop** and his wife **Christine**. Well done on passing his Class 1 course at Catterick and hope that they enjoy life in Celle.

The department expresses a fond Aloha to **Sig Glen McLaughlan** and his wife **Theresa**, who join us from 28 Sig Regt—**Cpl Angus MacPherson** from QM(A)—**LCpl Glen** and **Alison Cavanagh** from the Officers' Mess and finally **Sig 'Tin Tin' Taylor** from 2 Div in York.

VISITS

The QM(T) department received a visit from Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE** on 15 December. He spent a considerable time talking to the staff expressing genuine interest in their job specs and posed searching questions to some. From past experience, it is suggested that for questions that were not answered satisfactorily, correct answers should be available on the next inspection. **Angus** beware!

QUARTERMASTERS BAOR LUNCH

On Thursday 21 January, the Regiment had the proud privilege of hosting old and bold QMs from Royal Signals units in BAOR. It was a marvellous day thoroughly enjoyed by all and special thanks must go to **Maj (QM) J. H. Richardson** for putting the show together.

CORPS ALPINE SKI CAMP

This season saw the Royal Corps of Signals Alpine Ski Training Camp move to Kaprun, Austria. For the first time soldiers, from as far apart as Edinburgh and Episkopi, were gathered together in the small 'Christmas-card' village to undergo three weeks intensive glacier training.

The aim of the camp was to race-train up to 25 Royal Signals soldiers in order to enhance the standard of Corps skiing. For this to be a success it was necessary to have as many experienced trainers as possible. **Stabsunterotfizier Bernhard Kriner** of the Sonthofen based Sportschule der Bundeswehr was a great help and much appreciated. Without the experience of **Sgt 'Phil' Philemon** both on and off the piste the camp would not have gone so well, his expertise was invaluable.

The training was divided into three sessions. The first being technique training. This was completed in two groups—the 'A' team and of course the 'B' team! Keeping to the same groups we then moved on to the second session of pole training. **Sig 'Capo' Carpenter** was to show his true colours as quite a speed merchant but not quite fast enough to compete with **Cpl Andy Brown** who, at the end of the camp, was seeded in first place.

All in all it was a very successful camp. Only two days training were lost due to adverse weather conditions. Snow conditions on the Kitzteinhorn glacier were excellent and an enthusiastic team of soldiers improved their skiing.

Many thanks go to **Sgt Philemon** and **Bernhard Kriner** for their enthusiastic training. Thanks also go to the COs of 8 Sig Regt, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and, of course, **Lt Col Barrett**, CO 22 Sig Regt, for their co-operation in making the camp possible.

REGIMENTAL ALPINE SKI TRAINING

After attending the Corps training camp in Kaprun the 22 Sig Regt Alpine Ski Team moved to Fulpmes, Austria, for their second phase of training in preparation for the Divisional Championships.

The snow conditions of the 'Schlich 2000' were found to be quite hard—perhaps even a 'touch dicey'! Even so the training began in earnest, concentrating on race training and not so much on technique. This pleased **2Lt David Drinkall**. Training was going extremely well, except for the need of a snow fall, when disaster struck—**LCpl Dean Mackenzie** broke his collar bone in a spectacular fall. With one man lost from the 'A' team **LCpl Colin Cunningham** had to 'step-in'! Now with only a seven man squad we reached the time for Ex Edel Iron to commence.

3 ARMD DIV ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988

With three of the four 'A' team seeded within the top 10 racers the team commenced to race in Ex Edel Iron X. The first race was the team Giant Slalom when **Cpl Andy Brown** took first place by a margin of two seconds which led 22 Sig Regt to victory by a massive six seconds. At this stage the second disaster struck when **Cpl Kev Sturman** injured his arm in a fall and needed to be casevaced to Lippstadt. At least he had **LCpl Dean MacKenzie** to keep him company!

Now, with only a six man squad, we continued.

The downhill was the second race. Again **Cpl Brown** was victorious and the team finished a strong third place. The individual slalom was next and no points for guessing, **Cpl Brown** finished in first place and **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford** in third place. The fourth race was the team Slalom when **Cpl Andy Brown** was placed in first place and the team was second to the 17/21 Lancers. The concluding race of the meeting was the individual Giant Slalom when first place went to **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford** and **Cpl Andy Brown** had to be satisfied with a second place!

With four men going through to the Army Championships (**Brown, Crawford, Donnelly** and **Cunningham**) the exercise had been a success. Not one team member missed out on silver. **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford** received the Gavourin Cup for being Giant Slalom Champion, **Cpl Andy Brown** was the Slalom, Downhill and Combination Champion and **2Lt 'Dangerous Dave' Drinkall** won the novice Alpine Combination Champion.

The team won the Giant Slalom Bowl, Alpine Combination Bowl and the Engineering Cup and qualified for the Army Championships.

ARMY ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988

The lack of depth and consistency caused by injuries now began to show at the Army Championships. However the team still managed to be placed fourth in the Giant Slalom.

However, all was not lost, 22 Sig Regt got two members into the British Army Alpine ski team—**Cpl Andy Brown** and **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford**. Yet again, 22 Sig Regt had more Army team members than any other Regiment in the British Army. **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford** won the Army Downhill and was seeded seventh. **Cpl Andy Brown** came second place in the Slalom and was seeded number three in the Army.

LCpl Cunningham who 'thrown in at the deep end', was entered as the fourth member of the 'A' team was awarded the Michael Pierce trophy for the most promising Royal Signals skier.

A good end to a great season, our only disappointment being in the Marina Cup.

CORPORALS MESS

'Ah! **Cpl Anderson**', said **RQMS Wood**, who amongst other things is the supervising warrant officer of the Corporals' Mess.

'You are the new PMC of the mess'.

'Am I?' (curiously).

'Yes'.

'Is this open to discussion' I asked dejectedly.

'No' was his sardonic reply, 'Choose your PEC and see me at 1100 hrs'.

'Roger the cat' says I. I closed the door and burst into tears.

Ideas whizzing through my small but finely tuned brian, I walked over to the Church Army for a cup of Rosie and who should I bump into but that well known impersonator of 1939 world leaders, **Cpl Al Rowe**.

'You are the new PEC for the mess'.

'Am I' (curiously).

'Is this open to discussion? . . . etc etc'.

Anyway when I left him **he** was crying.

Later in the RQMS's office I was told that all I had to do was finish off the redecoration in the mess, organise a few functions and generally make a lot of money for the mess.

'Sir' I started 'with all due respect . . .'.

'Very good, get on with it'.

'Right oh'.

It's sad that such a short time in a warrant officers' company should end like this.

Cpls Mick Licence and **Andy Brown** weren't going on Ex Keystone so they offered to help with design and decorate the mess whilst the rest of the Regiment exercised themselves. In just three weeks, giving up a lot of their own time, they completed the task to a high degree of professionalism. I can only express the mess's sincere thanks to them and their families. They were ably assisted by the following: **Cpls 'Wobbley' Owen, 'Taff' Connor, LCpls Charlie Duffy** and **Bertie Basnet**.

Our first function was a Pub Night. This was an unmitigated disaster but it was early days. The next do was a Fancy Dress. **Cpl Phil Price** and his wife won watches for the best fancy dress and a good night was had by all. Our next party was the Shipwrecked Night. **Cpls Stevie Laverton** and **Chris Gleadow** can be blamed for my state of health and as usual **Phil** and **Borgit Price** won the fancy dress (they're banned from competing from now on).

Things were going well but it couldn't last. Summoned to the RQ yet again: 'The Brigadier is coming to have coffee in the mess, sort it out'. The door closed, and more tears, I was beginning to hate **him**.

Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps arrived and after coffee spoke to mess members. Thanks must go to **Mrs Sharon Gray** the 'mop technician' for all her hard work.

The next noteworthy event was the Wild West Night which was a mixture of a Pork 'n' Beans buffet, live music and an electric bull, quite a lethal combination, talk about blazing saddles. **LCpl Moles** stayed on the longest, **Cpl Licence** went on (and came off) the most, he also flew the longest distance. I won the 'whose got the wrong sized trousers on/off?'

I would now like to thank all the committee for their drive and enthusiasm and the PEC for giving out my telephone number.

Lastly, to all those members who go to all the functions, and their wives, I thank them sincerely and hope that they enjoy them as much as I do.

WO2 (RQMS) Les Wood hosts Comd Comms 1 Sig Bde in Corporals' Mess. Cpls Anderson and Rowe ready to answer any questions

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

EXERCISE CACTUS END 1/88

The first exercise of the year took place from 12-15 January. This was a NORTHAG Sig Sp Gp (NSSG) sponsored exercise and took place in barracks. As well as the normal NORTHAG signal elements, 840 (GE) Sig Bn, NL Sig Sqn and the Air Sp Radio Sqn (ASRS), communication detachments were sent from 1 (BE) Corps, 1 (NL) Corps and 1 (GE) Corps.

Suddenly the barracks was bustling with German, Belgian and Dutch signal units, all working together to provide communications. The Regiment hosted a large supper for over 100 during the exercise. We now look forward to the next exercises, Ex Canary Caper 1/88 and Ex Close Encounter/Crested Eagle.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

SHQ PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Jack Boyle**
2IC	**Capt Keith Jones RPC**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Bill Woodmason**
SQMS	**SSgt Alec Turner**

ALL CHANGE

In recent months the Squadron Headquarters has had a few changes in manpower. Our 2IC, **Capt Alan Sharp RPC**, has left for pastures new and is replaced by **Capt Keith Jones RPC** who joins us from the RPC Training Centre in Northampton. **WO2 (SSM) Brian Parkhill** has vacated the SSM's Office and returned to the Training Wing, handing over the reins to **WO2 (SSM) Bill Woodmason** who joined us in September after a two and a half year holiday in Cyprus. **LCpl Mick Robinson** joined SHQ from RHQ replacing **Cpl Roy Clarke** who has moved to the Unit Admin Office to play with PAMPAS.

REGIMENTAL MT

The MT is now working to prepare the Regimental NATO Vehicle Fleet for the annual TUV Inspection at the end of March. As it is not very often the Troop is seen together, **SSgt 'Lemon' Lewington** decided it was time for a photograph; he soon forgets a face!

Back Row (L to R): Herr Urselam, LCpl McHale, Sig Darby, Reid, Dalzell, Lennie, Owen, Anderson (830), Anderson (605) and Miller
Front Row (L to R): Cpl Edwards, Sig Smee, Sgt Tate, Capt Nelson, SSgt Lewington, Sgt Cox, Sig Cresswell and Cpl Norris

1 SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP

On 27 November the Inter-Troop Badminton Competition took place in Mountbatten Hall (Gymnasium).

The competition was run on a two league basis comprising two teams from each squadron, a total of three teams in each league. The winning teams from each league were to play the runners-up of the other league in the semi-final stages. Each match consisted of three singles and two doubles matches, each match being the best of three games.

Alpha Tp won its respective league, and its semi-final and met Support Bravo in the final. Unfortunately the run of success was not to continue, and we lost the final by four matches to one. Despite the result the competition was a great success organised by **Capt Gilchrist** (OC Sqn), and a few 'budding' badminton stars had emerged from the troop.

The troop badminton team consisted of the following: **Capt Dave Gilchrist, Sgts Bob Cook, Bob Pullan, Cpls 'Jake' Jakins, 'Frosty' Frost, LCpls 'Stu' Cook, 'Marty' Taylor Shaun Meadows** and **Sig 'Brummie' Ford**.

Also during the month of December all the stores within the troop were to be checked and accounted for; this involved all members of the troop. Everything from Cam nets, Tentage, Cookhouse, Stores, Vehicles, Equipment and Tools were checked. This was hardly the best of introductions for our new troop OC **Lt Debbie Wheatley-Price**, however she was ably assisted by **SSgt John Jackson**, enabling the troop to receive a good report.

On 23 December, before departing for the Christmas break an Inter-Troop Football Match was played between the two troops of the Squadron, Alpha and Bravo. Each team member was in fancy dress (Christmas Theme), and the game was a great success with Bravo running out winners by four goals to three, due to a few dubious refereeing decisions by **Capt Bob Dobson**, (Ex OC Troop)?

The change-over day for people returning from Christmas leave, and those going on leave for the New Year was 29 December. This day was spent cleaning the Troop Lines, weapons in the morning, and a Commanding Officer's run in the afternoon in fancy dress. There were several superb efforts of fancy dress, with one of the most notable being **Cpl 'Taff' Hughes**, and his 'Grolsh' (which is a headache beer) can placed on his head depicting a hat, and two straws leaving the can entering his mouth. After the end of the run it was obvious that many more members of the troop had enjoyed Christmas.

Congratulations to **Cpl 'Frosty' Frost** and **Cpl Tony Shutler** and **LCpl Shaun Meadows** on their recent promotions. Also to **LCpl Andy Jones** and **Lisa** on their recent marriage and wishing them every happiness in the future.

We welcome the following new members to the troop: **LCpls Paul Smith, Reg Varney, Tony Shutler, Jim Yule, Sig Ian Sanders, WPtes Sally Motson, Helen Price** and **Ann Pocklington**.

Sad farewell to **LCpls Eddie O'Kelly, Ian Hurt** both out to civvy street, and **Sig Wayne Coates** posted.

BRAVO TROOP

Well it has been a busy time of late within the Troop. There have been many comings and goings including a new squadron commander, **Maj Alan Evans**.

One can imagine he (like many of us) felt that 28 Sig Regt was a 'sleepy hollow'. However one can equally imagine that the record was soon put right upon his initial interview with the Commander, when he was welcomed to the Regiment and then informed that 'Tomorrow's PT parade is at half past "very early", and, oh yes, the Regiment is on exercise'.

The exercise is an annual event, and it is primarily intended to promote international relations between the member countries of NORTHAG, and in this it was successful. It was equally successful in exercising the Christmas Spirit; which one might consider as its secondary aim.

On the social front the Troop took part in what is hoped becomes an annual event—the Christmas run. It took place in the afternoon of the Regimental changeover day; 29 December. Members of the squadron were dressed in the Christmas spirit; **LCpl Dave Merricks**—Corps personality; wore the now obligatory Union Jack toga. Whilst the Tp OC **2Lt Dave Chattaway** wore a striking little number in the Paris style.

We, the Regiment, then proceeded to run through the German countryside, much to the local amusement; they must have thought **Jacob Marley** was right, and this is the Ghost of Christmas Past to beat all others. We then returned to barracks to be greeted by Glühwein and mince pies, although the mince pies were a bit thin on the ground.

The Troop would like to congratulate **SSgt (FofS) 'Super Ted' Norman** on his recent automobile purchase, that has a fitted shower!

THE SATISFIED SOLDIER'S COURSE
by WLCpl D. Clarke

'Me' a satisfied soldier! Well why not, a week working at my local careers office, yes I'll do it. The first I knew of the course was a memo asking for volunteers. Some months later I was given my flight tickets.

I arrived at 0830 hrs at Worchester ACIO, a small office with five senior ranks and two officers who all made me feel very welcome. I had an initial interview with **Capt Green WRAC** and was put to work. I was a little apprehensive at first, the work being very different from what I'd been used to. (There's a surprising amount of documentation to do on one recruit). After bluffing my way through that, I was shown the latest recruit films and aptitude tests. As the day passed I became a competent receptionist and interviewer.

As the week wore on, I took recruits for exams, showed the films, answered any questions. I went out to local schools and gave lectures and finally spent evenings at careers conventions trying to convince mums and daughters that the WRAC was the ideal career for the modern young lady.

The week passed so quickly and it was time to return. I had a wonderful time and would recommend the course to anyone. My only regret was that the course lasted only a week.

FOOTBALL
TEN OUT OF TEN

On Saturday 16 January the Regimental First Team completed the 1986/87 Season by beating RAF Gatow 2—1 and thereby winning the BGF Cup—for the first time. That win gave us 10 out of 10 wins.

We are winners of the (BR) RCZ Major Units Trophy—for the 19th time!, having won a close fought game against 21 Sig Regt to finish 3—1. This match was played at Dusseldorf on 2 March.

Sadly we did not realise our ambition to become Army Cup Winners this season, having been beaten by our old rivals 28 Amph Engr Regt RE on Wednesday 9 March.

We are determined to retain all our titles and win some more, so, all contenders—beware!

Back Row (L to R): WO2 Parkhill, SSgts McAvoy, Harris, Cpls Breheney, Bunkie, Sig Owen, LCpl McHale, Cpl McKeegan and Capt Nelson
Front Row (L to R): Cpls Booth, Norris, Wayman (Capt), McQuade, Sig Rankin, Cpl Fife and Sig Anderson

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

EXERCISE ACTIVE LOOK
Reported by Sgt Kevin Hallett

Ex Active Look was an exchange ex to Hong Kong with 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn which, unfortunately, took place whilst the Regiment was deployed in Scotland on Ex Purple Warrior.

Four NCO's volunteered for the trip: **Cpl Maurice 'Moz' Fisher, LCpl Nigel 'Radar' Goodwin, Sgt Kevin Hallett, LCpl Taff Cadwgan.**

After a gruelling 17 hr flight the four arrived 'hung over' with jet lag at Kai Tak Airport to find the first five days of the stay were to be spent adventurous training.

Ex Chhoto Jankari I (we couldn't pronounce it either) took place on Ping Chan, an island in the middle of the China Sea, roughly 2km by 1km in size.

The five days were spent running and canoeing around the island, climbing up and abseiling down it, the latter causing great consternation for **Sgt Hallett** who refused to abseil only to find once he'd climbed up, it was the only way to get down!

Snorkeling around the coast and windsurfing to China; which one of the Gurkhas very nearly did much to the dismay of the instructor **Sgt Bruce Barnes**, were by far the most popular pursuits.

On return to the Regiment, the four Gurkha exchange soldiers were back from Scotland preparing for the journey home to Hong Kong. Before they left, they presented the Regiment with a Gurkha Signals plaque.

Thank you all at 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn!

L-R: Sgt Kev Hallett receiving instruction from Cpl Indrabahadur with Sgt Udendraprasad looking on

Standing: Cpl Maurice Fisher, LCpl Nigel Goodwin, Sgt Kev Hallett, LCpl Taff Cadwgan
Kneeling: Cpls Rajendraman Gurung, Thamparsad Gurung, Pemba Sherpa, Manbahadur Gurung

POSTSCRIPT TO 'EX PURPLE WARRIOR'

DEDICATION TO A SPEARHEAD SOLDIER
by Maj John Grierson

Icy rain swept over the ranges, the wind tugging at combat jackets and sending chill shivers through the waiting soldiers. It was with a feeling of relief that they heard the shrill voice of the range NCO as the first detail of men commenced their firing practice. At least now the bullets were flying down the range and it would soon be their turn to fire. Suddenly the firing stopped, red flags were thrust up, tiny figures seemed to be running from the firing point to the target area. Something was wrong, but what?

It seemed to be an age before one figure detached itself from the knot of people now grouped on the firing point. He made his way, panting, to the chilled but curious group of soldiers waiting by the transport. Breathlessly he gasped to them, 'Got called to the phone—Spearhead has been called—must return to Blandford—details unclear at this time—best, if you are on Spearhead, that you come with me.'

Quickly a small group formed and bundled itself into a waiting Land Rover and left to return to Blandford. What thoughts rushed through their minds? Would this, like so many others, be a false alarm? Would they actually deploy their equipment to some long forgotten part of the world? Was it possible that their preparation for Spearhead, after all the booking out for every little errand to Blandford, and all the form filling for aircraft loads, would be justified? Above all three questions nagged the little group beyond measure: Where was this emergency? What was it and, most important of all, what was our involvement? The officer racked his brains, he had seen no alerting signs in his daily study of the papers, true there were trouble spots, but none of them seemed to hold the portents for a deployment, so what was it?

On return to Blandford OC 1 Sqn hurried up to the Operations Room for briefing. A well controlled situation met him: **Sgt W**, the Spearhead SNCO was busy putting together the details to deploy a satellite station. The Yeoman of Signals was going through the all important detail, while the Ops Officer went into a well rehearsed routine covering the background to the request for assistance. Meanwhile the rest of the detachment under **LCpl W** gathered together the last few remaining items of equipment. Information was slowly trickling through and plans began to take shape. An officer would be needed to command the party and establish liaison with the local people. A small recce party, one man, was to go on ahead that night by civilian aircraft. The bulk of the equipment would go on one of those workhorses of the RAF, so familiar to the soldiers, a C130. Work continued, families were warned that their menfolk would be away, but for how long? Who could answer that question?

It has been said that war is 95% waiting punctuated by moments of high activity. These words gained impact as the activity of preparation came to a close and, like racehorses in the stalls, we waited for the final flight details. Twenty-four hours passed. Then, like the Stock Market on Black Monday, morale slumped as the deployment was cancelled and our detachment stood down. What a let down, why the change of plans? Ours is not to reason why . . .

With the distinctive smell of aircraft fuel, fetid air and sweaty bodies still hanging in their nostrils, eight Spearhead soldiers, now strapped in the belly of a C130, pondered on the vagaries of politics and when they might see Blandford again . . .

Hold it! SSgt (FofS) Marti Webb makes a rapid move to adjust the TSC 502's horizontal hold. Cpl Phil Heeley knows that he has been caught out

'Z' Watch. Green maggot award (4 Div please note!) Capt Shaun Dexter

VISIT OF GOC SWDIST—MAJ GEN A. S. JEAPES, CB OBE MC
Reported by Capt Don Macaulay

The GOC SWDIST visited the Regiment on 3 December 1987, in order to present three medals and a commendation to members of the Regiment as well as to look at the Regimental equipment display.

The visit began with the CO, **Lt Col Keith Butler,** briefing the GOC on the unique role of the Regiment; after a quick change of uniform the GOC, CO and RSM, **WO1 Peter Sutherland,** moved to the presentation square already flanked by the cold and windswept members of the Regiment. **Sgt Eddie Grattidge** was awarded the BEM for his extraordinary courage and initiative displayed during post-cyclone relief work in the Solomon Islands in June 1986.

Sgt Eddie Grattide receives his BEM
L-R: Sgt Grattide, GOC SWDIST, Sgt Bob Hay

Then the GOC presented **WO2 (FofS) Bob Thompson** with the GOC NI Commendation for outstanding technical work in the Province.

Sgt Bob Goode received his Long Service and Good Conduct medal for 15 years exemplary service most of which appeared to be in tropical climes!

The final presentation was the Royal Signals Institution Silver Medal which was awarded to **SSgt (FofS) Dave Long** 1987 for his highly innovative work with computers during the Foreman's Course.

After toasting the medal recipients in champagne the GOC was shown around the equipment display where he was also able to meet some members of the Regiment.

The GOC departed from the Regiment having gained an insight into the challenges facing the soldiers of 30 Sig Regt and their communication equipment.

Presentation of GOC NI Commendation to WO2 (FofS) Thompson by GOC SWDIST

Presentation of LS and GS Medal to Sgt Bob Goode

Presentation of Royal Signals Institution Silver Medal to SSgt (FofS) Dave Long

'I look at it like this'
L-R: CO, GOC SWDIST, Cpl Steve Marshall, Sgt Sean Weldon

DYERS VISIT—A SMALL PICTURE GALLERY

Every year the Regiment holds the 'Cygnet Dinner'; this dinner is held especially to say 'thank you' to the Worshipful Company of Dyers for their help throughout the year.

Before the dinner, the representatives: Prime Warden—**Mr Richard Skilbeck** and **Mrs Janet Skilbeck**, Clerk to the Dyers—**Mr James Chambers** and **Mrs Fizzy Chambers**, were shown around the Regimental equipment display, as well as making a visit to the 30m range!

During the day the CO presented the Prime Warden with a print of the Regimental painting entitled 'San Carlos Water—June 1982', before moving on to tea in HQ Mess, and preparation for the Dinner.

L-R: Maj Mike Sheehan, Mr Richard Skilbeck (Prime Warden), Mrs Janet Skilbeck, Mrs Fizzy Chambers, Mr James Chambers (Clerk to the Dyers)

ORIENTEERING

Reported by Sgt George Mayne

The Corps Orienteering Championships took place in October at Catterick.

The Regimental team, led by **WO2 (SSM) Bernie Temmen** with able support from **Lt Stewart Sharman, Sgt George Mayne, Cpls Josh Mainka** and **Carl Robinson, Sig Barty Barton** providing new depth to the team, was there to defend its Major Unit Crown.

Back row (L-R): Cpl Mick Stanyer, Sig Barty Barton, Cpl Carl Robinson
Front row (L-R): Sgt George Mayne, Lt Stewart Sharman, WO2 (SSM) Bernie Temmen, *Absent:* Cpl Josh Mainka

On the first day **WO2 Temmen** retained the title as Corps Champion and **Cpl Mick Stanyer**, running as an individual, took the prize for third place with an outstanding run.

However there was an upset to come and it came in the team competition with the School of Signals 'A' Team taking a twelve minute lead into day two, the relays. The expertise of the team was needed and as if to order the team shone through, successfully negotiating a demanding course. All other near opposition was disqualified (Shame!).

Once again the Regiment took the Major Unit Title and another bucket full of trophies back to Blandford.

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER OF RSM

The Regiment said a sad farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Pete Sutherland** and his wife **Eleanor**, who have decided to finally settle down in York. We would like to thank them both for all their hard work, and wish them all the very best for the future.

We would also like to welcome **WO1 (RSM) Peter (name goes with the job) Haywood** and his family, and hope they quickly get used to the gale force winds!

WO1 Pete Sutherland hands over to WO1 Pete Haywood

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

61 SQN

Pride of place, this month, must go to **Capt Brian Murray**. Just over a year ago he was awarded a QM's commission which ended his 'reign' as Squadron Sergeant Major. Now, he has just been appointed Squadron Commander. Not a bad record—SSM to OC in one year! We hope that his wife **Jean**, will get used to all the extra work this entails. **Brian**'s rapid rise means that the 'Old OC' **Maj Jim McKee** has, sadly, left us. He had decided to return to the Regular Army and is now teaching 22 Sig Regt how to do things properly. It also means that **Jim** is a Captain again, so I hope he kept his 'Pips'. All these comings and goings happened at the end of the year, so the Squadron Christmas celebrations gave us a good opportunity to say goodbye to **Jim, Rachel** and little **Jamie**.

SPORTS—ORIENTEERING

Some members of the Squadron have found a new way to help get rid of some of the Christmas excesses. **Lt Jan McClean** has been in this sport for a few years now and decided to introduce it to (unsuspecting) members of the Squadron. **Pte Ann Tonner**, a fairly new member of the Squadron, took up the challenge and writes the following:-

THE SPORT OF ORIENTEERING

In this sophisticated age plain physical exercise is seldom enough to satisfy on its own: 'Keeping the weight down' is hardly a continued excuse, week after week, for a brisk trot or a wandering plod over the local terrain. Consequently, even though we preach the value of fitness, many of us soon ask the civilised question 'fitness for what?'.

As a complete beginner to the sport of orienteering, I was surprised to find the total absorption of the mind, while the body revels in the best and most natural exercise of all—that of running. The orienteer meanders over and through some of the best countryside in Britain. To the best of his/her physical ability, the orienteer navigates from defined point to defined point, permutating and computing all the exact knowledge and information available from the ordnance survey map. The course requires the orienteer to visit a number of check points, or 'controls': at each they find a red and white control flag and a punch with which to mark a card as proof of his/her visit. It is like a car rally but done on foot with the one individual being the driver, navigator and providing the power-output as well.

It could be the fable of the hare and the tortoise in modern dress. Clutching at their maps, carrying their compasses like St Christopher, charms around their necks, the trained athletes bound off from the starting line down the first available path and hope by sheer running ability to visit all the controls during their rapid if erratic progress.

After my first attempt I was amazed to see the widely different age groups—from young children being carried round the course by their parents to old age pensioners.

The adventure of orienteering is there for you to find. Like most other things in life the more you put in the more you will get out. This is a complete sport, the body exercised and the mind absorbed—the cirterion of success is your personal enjoyment and definitely a sport for all.

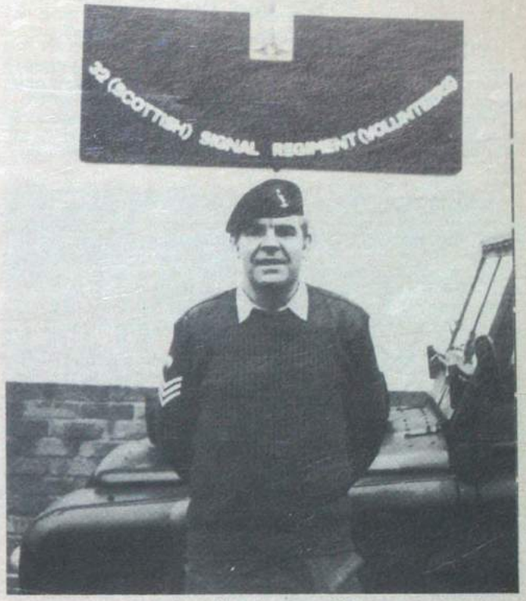
MT NEWS

There are many skills that TA soliders are expected to know. Most civilians do not usually drive landrovers, but there are few TA soliders who have not had the pleasure. Still, we tend to just drive them on roads from the TA Centre to a weekend camp. So one weekend in the depth of winter the Squadron took out most of the landrovers and did one of those tricky obstacle cone courses, wheel changing exercises and first works parade instruction. With a cross-country driving exercise thrown in, we are now all experts in the use of landrover (if we have any fuel left to use in them).

SQUADRON OFFICERS' MESS NEWS

Though the Squadron Officers' Mess is somewhat depleted at the moment, we can still enjoy ourselves. In late January we celebrated **Burns'** birthday in traditional manner with haggis, neeps and tatties. With a piper from the Regimental Pipes and Drums, a recitation from **Capt Dave Roy** (a guest from 69 Sqn) and a couple of songs, the Mess showed it could still put on a good show. However, the two officers who took part in the orienteering on Sunday morning might not have felt it was good preparation for their exercise.

Now that we are well into the new year, the Squadron must settle down to some hard work, with lots of trade training and exercise training to be done but we're still going to enjoy ourselves and I'm sure there will be a few surprises—so watch this space!



New Year Honours List

SSgt Tam Padden BEM was recently honoured in the New Year Honours List. This is a very proud moment for him, 52 (Lowland) Sig Sqn (V) and of course, the Regiment. SSgt Tam Padden joined the NRPS of this Regiment some four years ago after serving 22 years as a regular in the Royal Signals. He is married to Vera and resides in Burnside, Glasgow. Well done Tam!

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.

We offer you: Job Security · Good Career prospects · Opportunities for Overseas Service Attractive Salaries · and much more.

To be eligible you need a minimum of 2 years radio operating experience with an ability to read morse at 20 wpm. Those with no relevant experience must hold one of the following qualifications: MRGC, PMG or MPT; or a BTEC HNC in a Telecommunications subject with a certificated morse speed of 20 wpm. (City and Guilds 7777 at advanced level incorporating morse transcription would be advantageous.)

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 £7,162. After Training an RO will start at £10,684 rising by 5 annual increments to £15,753 inclusive of shift and weekend working allowance.

Write or telephone for an application form to:–

GCHQ THE RECRUITMENT OFFICE, GCHQ, ROOM A/1108 PRIORS ROAD, CHELTENHAM, GLOS GL52 5AJ OR TELEPHONE (0242) 232912/3

33 Sig Regt (V) Liverpool

The New Year started in earnest for the Regiment owing to a full training programme and the final preparations for the 'opening' of a Trade Training Centre at Saighton Camp Chester.

This event was a milestone in the Regiment's long battle to secure suitable accommodation to carry out practical trade training.

On Saturday 9 January the Trade Training Centre was formally opened.

The story behind the TTC began two years ago when the CO expressed his unhappiness about the centralised trade training being run in old married quarters at Alamein TA Centre. So the hunt was on for new premises. We heard that 1 Kings was due to vacate Saighton Camp on its move to the Dale Barracks and promptly bid for the old accommodation; but—so did the Army Medical Services (TA)—and they won. Not being a good loser, the QM attacked HQ North West District and faced with a charging Scotsman, the HQ relented and gave us two wooden huts and a massive garage at Saighton.

Lots of hard work by the QM and FofS turned what you could term the 'Frog' into a 'Prince' and it was with pride that we saw the Bde Comd gasp with amazement when he saw the complex within the garage at Saighton. Rows of transportable containers fully equipped to train our soldiers in, and purpose built classrooms in the blocks for all trades. With accommodation available there, work is now in hand to provide us with the social amenities (of course!) and we are sure that the TTC will go from strength to strength.

EXERCISE FIRST CALL

Our Annual Mobilisation Ex First Call took place this year on 16/17 January. The exercise is designed to practise call out procedures and enable the clerks and SQMSs to check documentation and personal kit issues to ensure that all volunteer soldiers start the year with complete kit and equipment.

The exercise was well attended with an 82% turnout, which helped in the preparation and execution of our first comms exercise Ex Cold Bed which was carried out immediately after the Mobex.

As usual the weather lived up to the name of the exercise but nevertheless the equipment and operators got a 'good airing' prior to our major exercise period.

During the exercise we received a visit from the new CO, **Lt Col David Gardiner** who prior to taking command was casting an eagle eye over his new family as part of his handover/takeover programme.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 22 January the Regiment, after many farewell parties, reluctantly said goodbye to **Lt Col Roger Willsher**, his delightful wife **Christiane** and their sons prior to leaving for the 'Sunny South' and a posting to HQ UKLF.

During his command of the Regiment, **Col Roger** has overcome many obstacles and won many battles for the benefit of the Regiment and its soldiers for which we will all be extremely grateful.

He will be well remembered for his dedication, enthusiasm to succeed and his insatiable appetite for paperwork (the SD must be right!).

Being 'King of the Castle' for three years must have had some effect as on the day of departure (as can be seen in the photo) **Col Roger** was to be seen transporting his own castle to his next appointment.

All members of the Regiment wish him and his family the very best of good fortune in the future.

Lt Col David Gardiner has now taken over command of the Regiment and is fully entrenched in his new 'Liverpool Home'. We welcome him and his family and hope they enjoy their stay with us.

Lt Col Roger Willsher receives a farewell gift from the Permanent Staff presented by Maj Peter Hallett in the Sergeants' Mess

Lt Col Roger Willsher presents a farewell gift to WO2 (SSM) John Morrison and all members of HQ Squadron in the JRC.

Lt Col David Gardiner takes over command of the Regiment from Lt Col Roger Willsher

HQ SQUADRON MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

A presentation and social event took place at HQ Sqn on Thursday 3 December. The presentations were made to the following personnel:-

WO2 (RQMS) Huggins	Royal Warrant
WO2 (SSM) Morrison	Royal Warrant
WO2 (FofS) Galvin	Efficiency Medal
Sgt Weir (59 Sqn)	Efficiency Medal
Cpl Sharp (CO's Dvr)	Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
Retired SSM WO2 Jones	Clasp to Efficiency Medal

Afterwards a social evening was held for the recipients and their families in the Sergeants' Mess.

EXERCISE FALL BED

The weekend 28/29 November started well with HQ Sqn and LAD forming into eight teams to start a weekend of military quizzes and tasks. The programme started at 0900 hrs with each team completing eight tasks of 30 minutes by 1330.

After lunch **WO1 (RMTO) 'Dickie' Davis** and **WO2 (SSM) John Morrison** briefed the teams on the Sunday Driving/Map Reading Competition which is an annual event for the Long Trek Trophy. Briefing over, the SSM then informed the teams that they had three hours to prepare a 15 minute review starting at 1930 hrs in the JRC; this also carried points towards the competition.

There were three trophies presented by **Maj Derek Beckett** OC Sqn. The Ronnie Jones Individual Trophy for best all round performance throughout the year was won by **Cpl Frank Hale**, the Long Trek Trophy and the Alamein Shield were both won by team five from the LAD, but talking about winners, everybody who attended the weekend was a winner. Well done all HQ Sqn and LAD.

LCpl Frank Hale receives the Best All Year Round Performance Shield from Mr Ronnie Jones (retired SSM of HQ Squadron).

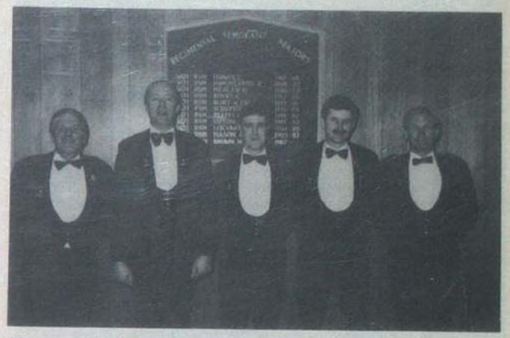
PERMANENT STAFF DEPARTURES

On 9 January three key members of the Permanent Staff were 'Dined Out' by members of the Regimental Sergeants' Mess at Huyton. They were: **Maj Peter Hallett** who has been our Training Major for the past four years (has it been that long?), who moves on to HQ 2 Sig Bde where he takes up the appointment of SO2 Comms.

Maj (QM) Len Jeffery (the Charging Scotsman) who has been responsible for all our achievements in securing Saighton Camp as a Training Centre and has now made the Regiment a 'household name' at Headquarters North West District. Members of the QM's department are now wearing black arm bands to mark the occasion of his departure. **Maj Len** now moves on to fill a staff appointment as SO3 G1/G4 Ops/Coord HQ South East District.

WO1 'Dickie' Davis has been our RMTO for the past three and a half years leading up to his retirement on completion of 22 years service. During his stay he has streamlined the Regiment's MT fleet and made it the most efficient MT we've ever had. Long haul movements to the Continent have never been so easy and we have a lot to thank him for.

'Dickie' and his family have now settled in their own house in Macclesfield and taken on the task of making a new life in civvy street. We wish them all the best for the future.



Members of the Permanent Staff who were dined out by the Sergeants' Mess accompanied by the RMS:
L to R: Maj (QM) L. A. Jeffery, Lt Col R. F. Willsher, WO1 (RSM) N. Brown, WO1 (RMTWO) D. Davies and Maj (Trg Maj) P. A. Hallett

PERMANENT STAFF ARRIVALS

We welcome to the Regiment the following Permanent Staff and their families and hope they enjoy serving with us.

Maj Paul Gorford who takes up the appointment of Training Major, having just been posted in from 22 Sig Regt. **Capt (QM) Bob Fortune** who joins us from the School of Signals as our new Quartermaster.

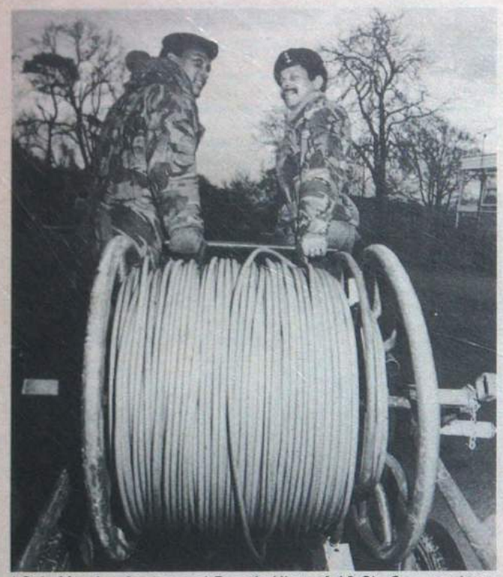
WO1 David Hogben who takes up the post of RMTWO.

FOCUS ON 42 SIGNAL SQUADRON—MANCHESTER EXERCISE DARK OAK

On the evening of Friday 27 November the Squadron moved to the Warcop training area on Ex Dark Oak. The aims of the exercise were to provide an opportunity to test equipment in the field, particularly the newly arrived Triffid Radio equipment, and to carry out NBC training.

On this particular weekend members of the press joined the Squadron. Both journalist **Chris Humphries** and photographer **Simon Pendrigh** of the Manchester Metro News claimed to have thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and were heard to express regrets that the nature of their profession prevented their joining—This in spite of their experiences with CS gas.

Even in the absence of any vigorous military training activities, the weekend did not pass without mishap. Line Tp seemed particularly accident prone, returning on Sunday with two casualties; **Cpl Alan Southworth** sported a beautiful black eye and three neat stitches—earned, he claims, when he fell out of the top bunk when he reached for his watch; **Cpl Vic Drew**, having tripped over his unfastened bootlaces, had to be casevaced to hospital with a suspected broken jaw. Fortunately for **Cpl Drew** this did not prove to be the case. Line Tp, it is rumoured, view this as a mixed blessing and have opened a book on how long **Cpl Drew** will be silenced by his injury.



LCpls Maurice Aarons and Francis Ulett of 42 Sig Sqn get down to some serious posing during Ex Dark Oak

Pte Sharon Butterworth, 42 Sig Sqn, looking as though she had just had laughing gas instead of CS during Ex Dark Oak

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron welcomes PSI **Sgt Phil Alford** from 8 Sig Regt and bids goodbye to **Sgt Danny Wills** who has taken up his new post at 1 Div.

TOP GIRLS

Congratulations to **Ptes Linda Muir** and **Pat Woods**, both nominated Top Recruit of their courses on their TA Recruit Training at Guildford.

Pte Linda Muir joined the Squadron in March and is employed as a pay clerk. She attended course 150 in October 1987. **Pte Pat Woods**, who also joined us in March, is to serve as a clerk. She won her honours on course number 151 in November 1987.

LORD LIEUTENANTS CERTIFICATE

On 19 October **Sgt Peter Griffin** was honoured by the presentation of the Lord Lieutenants Certificate in recognition of his services to the Squadron. **Sgt Griffin** joined the TA in March 1962 and served with 42 Sig Regt before joining 42 Sqn in 1967 on reorganisation.

Sgt P. Griffen, 42 Sig Sqn, accompanied by his wife, receives his Lord Lieutenants Certificate from Sir William Downward, Lord Lieutenant of Manchester. Sgt G. Wood and Maj C. Clark are also in the picture

80 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)—CHESTER
MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

On Saturday 30 January a Medal Presentation Parade took place at Abbots Park TA Centre, Chester to award TA Efficiency Medals and clasps to members of 80 Sig Sqn (V).

The Presentations were made by the Hononary Colonel, **Col J. Greenhill** TD in the presence of the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner** and members of 80 Sig Sqn (V) commanded by **Maj C. Millar WRAC**.

Local press were invited to attend and, after the ceremony of the parade, medal recipients and their families were treated to a finger buffet where cameras clicked to record the occasion.

Medal and clasp recipients were:-

Sgt P. D. Freeley	2nd clasp to Efficiency Medal for 24 years TA service
SSgt F. A. Hawkins	Efficiency Medal for 12 years TA service
Sgt A. W. Rogers	
Cpl G. J. Smethurst	
Cpl T. S. Pettigrew	

The weather, thankfully, was kind to us with sunshine for most of the day which was an added bonus to a super day enjoyed by all.

Medal recipients of 80 Sig Sqn (V) being photographed with the Hon Col and the CO after the Presentation Parade:
L to R: Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner, Sgts A. W. Rogers, P. D. Freeley, Cpl T. S. Pettigrew, SSgt F. A. Hawkins and Col J. Greenhill

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

The pressures of being a Royal Signals TA Adjutant—Capt Suzy Reed in Austria, skiing with the Army Ladies Ski Team!

48 (CITY OF BIRMINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON
ON THE WATERFRONT

On 9 October, 48 Sqn held a three day water navex on the Grand Union Canal. Items lost overboard included **Capt (now Maj) Jones**'s lighter, **Sig Blanchette**'s glasses and a very full portaloo—which saved the trouble of emptying it as it was never seen again! Those who took the order to fall in, literally, included **LCpl Monaghan, Pte Harris, Sig Nevitt, Blanchette** and **Harris**. **Sig Harris** enjoyed it so much he fell in twice—maybe next time he will remember to let go of the pole. His own boat sailed off and left **SSgts Mizen** and **Heaselgrave** in the boat following to fish him out and dry him off. Unfortunately for him none of the girls could be persuaded to warm him up 'Buddy Buddy' style. Many lessons were learnt, **Maj Jones** decided to hit the centre support of a two span bridge (well it should have moved) and **Sgt 'JR' Richards** discovered you can't bump start a 70ft canal boat!

48 Sig Sqn (V) 'on the waterfront'

C'EST LA VIE

French maids and onion Johnnys made up most of the guests at a 'French Night' held in the Officers Mess on 12 November. **Maj Foxon** and his wife **Carolyn** were judged the best dressed couple. **LCpls Fox, Griffiths** and **Cpl Blundell** stunningly dressed as French maids did the Can-Can which was outstanding and finished with **LCpl Fox** doing the splits!—an event only outshone by the Kissogram **(LCpl Jones)** who certainly surprised **General Benbow**.

ANNUAL DINNER

On 4 December the Regiment held a Ladies Guest Night at the Council House by kind permission of the Lord Mayor of Birmingham. Special guests at the dinner included **Col Alan Hawkesworth**, the senior Royal Signals Volunteer Officer in the County, **Col Peter Mather** and **Col Tony Griffiths.** The evening was a great success and will be fondly remembered by all—especially when they get their mess bills.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

48 Sqn held its 'Late Late Christmas Dinner' on 9 January during which **Maj 'TJ' Jones** and **SSgt 'The Argonaut' Arnot** were dined out. **Maj Jones** transferred from his appointment as 2IC 48 Sqn to OC Training Wing. PSI **SSgt Arnot** left to become NRPS at 1 Mercian, Wolverhampton. Their enormous contribution to the Squadron was matched only by the size of the 'Roly Poly Gram' secretly ordered to kiss them goodbye—'You first'—'No, No, you first'.

We welcome **SSgt Jevons** from 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, where he was SQMS, as our new PSI; also two new Officer Cadets, **OCdt Wadeley** who will be OC Tech Tp and **OCdt Balmforth** who will be OC MT Tp. **Capt George Cairns** rejoined as PSAO from his former appointment as RSM at 37 Sig Regt (V). **2Lt Julian Webb** returned in style on 1 February as OC Victor Tp (he used to be an OCdt here) and **Capt Chris Fidler** replaces **Maj Jones** as 2IC 48 Sqn.

FREEDOM PARADE

26 March marks the 21st anniversary of the present formation of the Regiment. It was granted the Freedom of the City on 11 September 1970 and will exercise its right to march through the City of Birmingham with 'drums beating, bands playing and bayonets fixed' (hope someone tells the public what's going on or they may think it's a new recruiting drive—'round 'em up and head 'em in'.

It will be the last duty for **Maj Ivan Armstrong** in his present appointment as Officer Commanding 48 Sqn; he will be leaving on 31 March 1988 to take up an appointment as Staff Officer with Western District.

Maj and Mrs I. Armstrong with daughter Karen

58th (STAFFORDSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Happy New Year folks—did we enjoy our Christmas break? Christmas Breakdown would be more appropriate. The Regiment threw its Panic Button on 5 December, the whole District opened its doors to the public, but for '58' it was all 'old hat' after our Ex Open House 1 in August. Mind you one or two people were thrown off balance by Ex Open House II. **Cpl Paddy Knowles** was most confused . . . walked straight into a tree that was in the middle of the drill hall! **Sig Steve Cook** was all confused and was made slightly happier when **LCpl Rob Shone** appeared in the driver's seat of a short wheel base Rover . . . it was all part of the Master Plan to keep you off the beer for the NY. Overall it proved a successful PR event with a request from the Institute of Business Managers for a 'Private Viewing'. This was duly arranged for the next Tuesday drill night—lo and behold an ex OC was in the group, but that was many years ago when the Squadron was an Artillery Unit; he was suitably impressed with the technology, but completely bamboozled by **SSgt (FofS) Alan Kirk** and **LCpl 'Clean' Johnson** who managed to 'blind them with science', Zanussi has nothing on 58 Sqn.

Can you remember we had a 'buckshee' full scale wooden castle with turrets—well it's destined to feature in many a story. The WO

and Sgts Mess held its Christmas Draw at Newcastle and yes, the castle was incorporated . . . the disco chaps were a bit dubious as to how to tackle the scaffolding to the turret—but—'demonstration by numbers' from **Sgts Jambo Robinson** and **Geoffrey Harriman** were enough to persuade them to 'elevate the sounds' for the night and what a night!

Remembrance Parade brought the warmest weather for years and the OC **Maj Bob Haysom** proudly led the parade around Newcastle town and then into a service at St Giles Church. All was quiet—we thought, until **SSgt Skip Whalley** came up with a real 'hare-brained' idea 'let's run from the top of Mt Snowdon to the TAC'—'Brill idea!' we all said, taking several steps back, not whilst in squad you understand. Anyway, we've got teams from the Fire, Ambulance, Police and coverage from Radio Stoke and Signal Radio—so we'll let you know how things go.

58th (Staffordshire) Signal Squadron on parade on Remembrance Day led by Capt Helen James WRAC/R Signals

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yet more potential recruits—congratulations to **LCpl Andy Elson** on his bonny girl, to **LCpl Nidge Knowles** a fine figure of a radio op and **Sig Bruce Sherman** for his little baby **Sherman**, not a tank you understand.

Special congratulations to **Pte Wanda Machincka** for best recruit at Guildford and to **Pte Paula Brammeld** for most improved recruit at Guildford.

Welcome to **Lt Nikki 'I speak more than one language' Payter**.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON—SUTTON COLDFIELD

You would be forgiven for thinking all was quiet in HQ Sqn but not a bit of it—indeed the Squadron has been playing host to TV personalities and **Mr Jimmy Edwards** visited the Squadron to preview the TA Open Day on 21 November 1987. In fact he enjoyed being photographed with **LCpl Chris Spiers** and **LCpl Eileen Fox**, lucky man. **Maj Ian Morris** also joined in the fun and somehow one of the Press men managed to get into the picture too. Suffice to say that the day itself turned out to be a great success and the children thoroughly enjoyed the McJimmy burgers.

Talking about Fun events, the Regiment is looking forward to its Regimental Skiing Exercise in Aviemore being capably organised by **SSgt Rod Shelton-Smith** with practical assistance from **Capt Suzy Reed** who is freshly returned from the Pistes of Austria! Well really, a month away on the sun kissed slopes of Fulpmes and then a week jumping over the heather in Scotland. What a change—but what the hell it's still snow! But wait to hear of the daring exploits of 35 Sig Regt on the slopes in Scotland . . .

From left to right: LCpls Eileen Fox, Chris Spiers, a Press photographer, Maj Ian Morris with Jimmy Edwards, on the occasion of his visit to HQ Sqn in Sutton Coldfield

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Having done well in previous years, the men coming 4th in 1986 and 2nd in 1985, the ladies being runners up in 1986 and 1985 it was with some confidence that we set off to Catterick on 23 October from all points South East to take on the regular army at their own game.

The teams consisted of:- **A Course. WO1 Mick Moffatt, Sgt (FofS) Paul Thomas-Peter, LCpl John Harrison. B Course. LCpl Neil Keen, Pte Louise Walker WRAC, Sig Dacre Barwick. Individuals. Cpl Grant, Sig Honeywell.**

The first days course was found challenging by the majority of team members and punished those who overran the downhill check-points but all the team put in solid performances to give us a position of 5th major unit going into the second day. Particular mention should be made of **Pte Louise Walker** who finished ahead of many of the men on the B course (including **LCpl Keen** and **Sig Barwick**!) to finish 4th WRAC overall. Also **WO1 Mick Moffatt** found that speed was not necessarily the answer after running a few kilometres more than necessary!

The second day, the relays, again saw some good performances particularly from the B course team with **LCpl Neil Keen** finishing 2nd on the 1st leg in a particularly fast time. The course was, if anything, more strenuous than the first day with an extremely steep climb on the A course.

Once all the runners had finished there was the anxious wait for the results to be collated and final placings sorted out. To our delight we found that the good performances over two days from each team member meant we had claimed 2nd place overall in the Major Unit Championship, a very creditable performance for a TA unit.

A bonus this year was the fact that a cup was to be presented for the best TA unit performance overall. We were very proud to be awarded this trophy on its first presentation by a narrow margin from 33 Sig Regt (V). We feel that there is now a definite incentive for TA units to compete in this championship and look forward to seeing more of them at RSOC 88.

36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V) Maj Units Runners-up Best TA Team

LCpl Keen handing over to WPte Walker B Course Relay

LCpl Harrison handing over to WO1 Moffatt A Course Relay

54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The period after camp is normally fairly quiet. For 54 Sqn it has been remarkably eventful this year, starting with management changes at the beginning of November. **Maj Mike Sexton**, who had been looking after the Squadron since the summer, handed over to **Maj Malcolm Touchin**, and returned to his duties as Regiment 2IC. At the same time **WO2 Graham Chapman** took over as SSM from **WO2 Ralph Collingridge**, on his retirement from both the Squadron and the TA. We thank him for all his hard work over the years and wish him well in his new-found free time. Also during this period, two Officer Cadets—**Heather Ingram** and **Sue Haughie** were commissioned and appointed to command 707 and 755 Tps respectively.

At the end of November, the Squadron held a very successful weekend at Thetford, getting through a number of the Bounty tests, as well as enjoying the social activities. Saturday was spent on the range, with every missed shot costing the firer five pence for the BBC's Children in Need Appeal. The Officers had an additional opportunity to show that no sacrifice is too great when, back at the camp, a specially arranged power failure blacked out their accommodation for the night. Considerably encouraged by this inconvenience to the Officers, we sat down to a splendid Christmas dinner, which had been organised by the PSAO, **Capt Danny Kay**, ably assisted by **SSgt Liz Day**, and which was served traditionally by the Sergeant's. It was also the occasion for our official farewells to **WO2 Ralph Collingridge** and to **Sgt Barry Wilkinson**, who leaves the TA after some 30 years service at Norwich. A number of guests from RHQ were present, including the SVWO, **WO1 Dave Watson**, who just couldn't escape from the bar quickly enough when it was announced that he was no longer a WO1, but a Captain! A thoroughly enjoyable evening was followed on Sunday morning by further Bounty tests, including that rare army treat, the CS chamber. Further contributions to the Children in Need Appeal during Saturday evening and Sunday morning brought the total raised to £145. Well Done.

The next event on the following Thursday evening, 3 December, was a visit to the new Cambridge TA Centre at Cherry Hinton Road by the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, and **Mrs Alexander**. After a short briefing by the CO, **Lt Col Chris Gale** and the Sqn Comd, the SOinC was taken to see 706 Tp under **Capt Julia Black**, which was deployed at the Coldhams Lane TA Centre to set up a link, using the new Euromux equipment, to their colleagues, 707 Tp back at Cherry Hinton Road. After chatting to the crew—**Sgts 'Twiggy' Elborn, Les Dickinson, Cpl Helen Macfarlane, LCpls Graham Wade, Martin Darley**, the SOinC was taken to see the other Troop, under **SSgt John Morley**, where he also met **Sgts Alan Newbury, Andy Patey, Cpls Rose Izzard** and **Eddie Kikas**. This was followed by a quick tour of the centre, taking in the SQMS Stores, where the General was introduced to the NRPS SQMS SSgts **Ray Whall, Frank Sharp** and his most impressive collection of military badges and insignia, **LCpl Paul Middleton** and **Sig Kevin Westley**. After a quick visit to **LCpl Diana Abrey**'s First Aid Lecture, **Gen Alexander** was treated to a display by the Regiment's own Corps of Drums, under **Sgt George Hall** from Gillingham. To round off the evening, **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Alexander** were entertained to supper in the Officers Mess by all the Squadron Officers. It also turned out to be the CO's birthday, and the PSAO ensured that the occasion was suitably marked by arranging for a birthday cake to be provided.

One week later the Squadron organised and played host to a parade at Bedford TA Centre, when HM Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, **Lt Col H. C. Hanbury LVO MC JP** presented his certificates to a number of deserving members of the TA, including **WO2 Ralph Collingridge**. The parade was commanded by **Lt Wesley Blewett**. The evening also provided an opportunity for our Honorary Colonel, **Col Michael Seys-Philips TD DL** to see the Centre, attend the parade and afterwards meet some of the soldiers over a pint or two in the bar.

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37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **WO2 Sid Lang**, SSM of 43 Sig Sqn (V) on being awarded the MBE which was announced in the New Years Honours List. It is a well earned reward for the many years of dedicated service he has given to his Squadron, the Regiment and the TA.

RHQ

On 12 January RHQ and 57 Sig Sqn (V) were visited at Bristol by **Brig M. J. Evans ADC**, the Deputy Commander South West District, for our ARU inspection. The CO **Lt Col Jonathan Cox** and the Adjutant **Capt Mick Fogg** are both still in situ, so all must be well!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All photographs are with the kind permission of **LCpl Nigel Morecroft** who doubles as the CO's Driver (when not supporting Cheltenham Football Club).

We were also delighted to receive our first visit from the new Brigade Commander, **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE** during a training evening on 26 January. The remainder of the Regiment is looking forward to meeting the Commander during future activities.

Welcome to **WO2 (RQMS) Mike Corsar** who has joined the Regiment in time to assist the beleaguered QM, **Capt Dave Longhurst**, to receive our new equipment and to back load the old D 11's!

Brig M. J. Evans, Lt Col Jonathan Cox, Capt Mick Fogg and SSgt Frank Dawson
The CO convinces the Brigadier that the Chief Clerk isn't too old

Lt Col Jonathan Cox, Brig Evans and WO1 (MTWO) Ken Dyer 'Yes Sir, I agree it is cold in my office'

43 (WESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Christopher Eskell**
2IC & OC CMHQ Tp	**Capt Mick Back**
OC 899 Tp	**Capt Rosemary Tuhey**
Tfc Offr 899 Tp	**Capt Andrew Cornish**
OC 866 Tp	**2Lt Chris Thompson**
OC 867 Tp	**2Lt Gabriella Summers**
SSM	**WO2 Lang**

During the last few months we have been pleased to welcome to the Squadron **Sgt Ray Cardwell** now filling the appointment of Troop Sergeant for 867 Tp, and, very recently, **SSgt Dave Beattie** who is taking over the reins from **SSgt Dick Hancock** as our new PSI.

COMMUNICATING

Last October the Squadron participated in what we think is the final Brigade D11 Exercise before re-equipping. To help convince ourselves that this really is so, our chief cook, **Sgt Robby Robbins** cooked each Troop a cake which was ceremonially eaten at Endex. The policy of dual-training operators in readiness for the new equipment is proceeding apace. The Squadron now has 19 operators dual-trained in Data Telegraphist/Radio Operator skills.

MILITARY TRAINING

Basic infantry skills and tactics were revised in an energetic fashion on a warm summer weekend in August last year during which a dramatic overhead thunderstorm produced a direct lightning strike on the camp's power supply. **Cpl Gilly Dawkins**, an ex-infanteer, was heard to mutter after a particularly exhausting section attack that he'd joined the Signals to get away from this sort of thing! We think everybody else enjoyed themselves!

A combined team from Bridgwater and CMHQ Troop at Exeter under **Capt Andrew Cornish** was entered for the Chichester Marches in what has now become an annual event for the Squadron. All the team completed 25kms some with very good finishing times.

Cpl Gilly Dawkins completes an arms inspection test on a recent military training weekend

SPORT AND ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

This seems to have assumed a particularly high profile this year. **2Lt Chris Thompson** competed in the Army Hang-gliding championships coming 2nd in his class, thereby qualifying him to take part in the Army team. **Capt Rosemary Tuhey** sailed on leg one of the JSS expedition to Australia and **Cpls Sam Gardiner** and **Sue Palfrey** are due to take part in the Corps sailing expedition to the Caribbean. The Squadron continues to supply Venturers for Operation Raleigh. **Cpl Rob Richards** has returned from the New Zealand leg and **Pte Amanda Salmon**, daughter of our PSAO, is all set to go on the Brazilian leg as is **Pte Jo Calvert**.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

Our long serving SSM, **WO2 Lang** has been presented with the second clasp to his Territorial Efficiency Medal by Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig J. A. P. Russell ADC**. This marks a career which has spanned an outstanding 34 years with the Corps, starting as a National Serviceman in Cyprus. For the majority of the past 17 years he has been Squadron Sergeant Major and now combines this role with Recruiting Warrant Officer.

Sgt Graham Hayman was presented with his Territorial Efficiency Medal at Annual Camp by our new Hon Col, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB**, and **Cpl Brian Parker** received his TEM from the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset.

OPERATION RALEIGH

Report by Cpl Rob Richards

After 12 months of gruelling selection tests, fund raising and personal preparation, I was at last off to represent Great Britain for three months on the New Zealand phase of this world-wide operation. We were to be based 10 miles from the small town of Te Anan in the remote and desolate fiordland of South Island where our accommodation, basic to say the least, was in six-man tents. A total of 128 venturers took part in this phase representing America, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand and Great Britain. The aims of this expedition were split between Scientific Projects and Community Tasks.

The main Scientific Project in which I took part involved a Bird Survey in a remote glacial valley, accessible only by helicopter, where we plotted sightings of such rare birds as the Yellowhead, and the Blue Duck found only in areas of fast flowing water. During a break in the programme I lived for a week on a sheep farm. After this the group I was with took part in the building of a 40-man accommodation hut on a new Natural Walkway in the Southern Alps.

Overall it was a most rewarding experience during which I snow-skied, white-water rafted, scuba-dived and, of course, walked up lots of mountains; but the greatest reward came from meeting, working with and living alongside the other 127 venturers who took part in the expedition from all their different countries and walks of life. I would most certainly do it all again.

53 (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

There have been a few promotions and new appointments within the Squadron over the past few months.

Congratulations to **Capt Jane Buckels** on her appointment as Squadron 2IC to **Maj John Insley. Capt Tony Reah** takes over **Jane**'s previous position as OC of the CMHQ Tp, Brecon. **Tony** is assisted by **Lt John Duggan.**

900 Tp continues to be commanded by **Lt Jackie Dimond** with 868 and 869 Tps commanded by **SSgts Karen Fisher** and **'Geordie' Shields** respectively.

We are all sorry to say goodbye to our SSM of six years, **WO2 Gordon Fenton**. However, the Squadron is fortunate to be able to appoint **SSgt Dave Johnson** to the position of SSM on his promotion to WO2.

SSgt Mick Chaloner has been promoted to WO2. 900 Tp is sorry to lose him but as Training Warrant Officer his valued experience and talents are well utilised.

Sgt Dave Williams has been promoted and replaces **Mick Chaloner** as 900 Tp Staff Sergeant.

Sgt 'Geordie' Shields' talents were recognised at annual camp when he was acting SSM. He has now been moved from 900 Tp to command 869 Tp on promotion to Staff Sergeant.

53 (W) Sig Sqn (V) drilling for oil during the visit of Brig Le Blanc-Smith

VISIT

On Saturday 16 January the Commander 160 Bde, **Brig W. A. Le Blanc-Smith MBE** visited the Squadron during training at Brecon.

SSgt Shields dealing with the chain of command

OTHER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following: **Fred Newton** to Sergeant, **Wayne Russell** and **Alistair McGinness** to Corporal, **Pat Jalloal, Andrew Healey, Teresa Gravett** and **Suzanne Jones** to Lance Corporal.

A FEATURE FROM THE VALLEYS

In order to keep in line with the Welsh language policy, 53 (Welsh) Sig Sqn is now operating their comms procedures using the Welsh phonetic alphabet. Out goes Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, etc. In comes . . .

		Translation
A	Aberdaugleddau	Fishguard
B	Bannau Brycheiniog	Brecon Beacons
C	Croesoswallt	Oswestry
CH	Chwannen	Flea
D	Dolgellau	Dolgellau
E	Efrog Newydd	New York
F	Ficerdy	Vicarage
FF	Ffrwydrad	Explosion
G	Gwynedd	Gwynedd
H	Hwllffordd	Haverfordwest
I	Iwerddon	Ireland
J	Jerusalem	Jerusalem
L	Libanus	Lebanon
LL	Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch	
M	Merionydd	Merioneth
N	Niwbwrch	Newborough
O	Offerynnydd	Instrumentalist
P	Pontarfynach	Devil's Bridge
R	Rwsia	Russia
RH	Rhydychen	Oxford
S	Seneddol	Parliamentary
T	Trefaldwyn	Montgomeryshire
TH	Theistiaeth	Theism
U	Uchelgeisiol	Ambitious
W	Wrecsam	Wrexham
Y	Ymarddangosiaeth	Showmanship
Z	South Wales Borderers	Michael Caine

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

93 SIGNAL SQUADRON
CHARITY APPEAL IN BLACKBURN

The Squadron raised £150 during a recent social event and presented the money to the Mayor of Blackburn on behalf of the East Lancashire Scanner Appeal.

Cpl Yvonne Pinder the Junior Ranks Club social organiser made the presentation to Councillor **Sylvia Liddle** on a training night last month. The Mayoress **Miss Susan Liddle** was in attendance. The mayoral party had a conducted tour of the training centre and were most impressed with the range of activities.

Mayor Liddle has a special interest in the Squadron not only as the town's first citizen but as the mother of **Sig John Liddle** one of our most travelled volunteers. Having spent a month in Cyprus earlier during the year he was unavailable for the presentation due to undertaking Royal Guard duties at Edinburgh Castle.

EXERCISE 'WINTER WREN'

The first weekend in February saw the full deployment of the Regiment in its new organisational format established to meet the demands of re-equipping. The Regiment was spread over 26 different locations spanning 20 counties between the South Midlands and Hadrians Wall. From Newcastle to Northampton, and from Liverpool to Leconfield near Hull elements from the Regiment were to be seen setting up their communication equipment. Morale was high, turnout very good and the small detachment concept clearly allowed many of those whose light was previously hidden, to shine forth. Many valuable lessons emerged despite the icy conditions—certainly the CO's driver will remember the experience!

BEM FOR FORMER WO2

Ex WO2 Phyllis Bates was awarded the BEM (Civil Division) in the New Year Honours List. **Phyllis** left 46 Sig Sqn (V) in January 1980 having served as a mess steward and driver from 1955 both here and with the Royal Signals at Derby. For the past eight years she had been involved with the Nottingham University Officers' Training Corps. Congratulations from 38 Regt on the honour.

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that 33 Sig Regt (V) report the death of **2Lt Simon Wheddon**, tragically killed in a car crash on New Year's Eve returning to his school-teaching job in Loughborough fom his family home in Bristol. **Simon** had spent a number of months attached to 46 Sig Sqn during 1986-7 and during this time had clearly demonstrated a youthful enthusiasm which suggested a very promising career within the TA. Despite his short time with the Squadron he is still remembered and his loss is shared by all who knew him.

The Mayor receiving the cheque from Cpl Yvonne Pinder. Maj John Lewer (OC 93 Sqn) and Miss Susan Liddle (Mayoress) in attendance

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

A CLEAN SWEEP

The WRAC element of the Regiment cleared the decks in the women's section of the NI TA Cross Country Championships held on 19 December 1987. The victorious team collected every trophy available this year amid growing competition showing a great improvement since last year when they were runners-up in the same competition. Congratulations to team members: **2Lts Shelley Hardie, Lorraine Jordan, LCpl Cathy Robertson, Ptes Jean Heron** and **Louise Templeton.**

NI TA Cross-Country Championships Winning Team WRAC Section
Front Row (L to R): LCpl Cathy Robertson and 2Lt Shelley Hardie
Second Row (L to R): Ptes Jean Herron, Louise Templeton and 2Lt Lorraine Jordan

PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

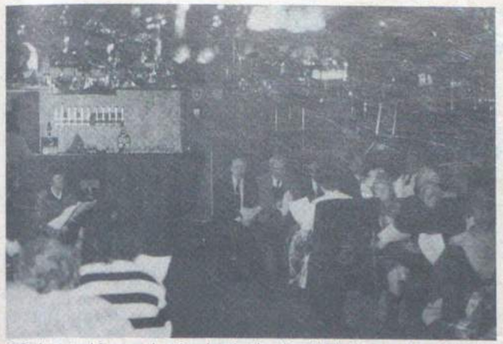
On Tuesday 15 December the ladies club invited the residents of the old people's flats next to the TA Centre to the Annual Christmas Coffee Morning in the Sergeants' Mess. The wives spent the day before the event in their kitchens producing mince pies, sausage rolls and cakes.

After some arm-twisting the CO, permanent staff officers and PSIs, donned their Sunday best and helped hand out the sherry and Christmas fare.

As a final surprise for the old folk, **Sig Keys** did his Santa bit and gave them all a small present to remind them of their visit.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the morning and look forward to seeing them all again next year.

'Santa' alias Sig Keys hands out the presents to the pensioners



CO *(centre)* in good voice leads the Carol singing at the old folks party

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 13 December saw the arrival of the annual crazy Sunday when the Regiment's officers and SNCOs feed the monsters their Christmas dinner. The day started after the Carol Service with the arrival of the RSM and SNCOs in the Officers' Mess to allow the assembled gathering to consume a small amount of dutch courage in order that the task ahead could be carried out with tact and diplomacy.

When H-hour arrived they marched in correct military style led by the Regimental Flute Band around the camp and into the Drill Hall where the Troops were sitting silently awaiting their scoff.

After an hour or so of pandemonium the afternoon's entertainment was rounded off with a medley of seasonal and Irish ballads from the Band and a disco.

The CO wishes the Troops a Merry Christmas while Cpl 'Big Henry' Blackwood stands behind

66 SQUADRON NOTES
Scribe—2Lt Hilary Bustard

After months of speculation and rumours formation of the new 66 Sqn has officially been announced. It will still consist of three Troops, A, B and C and an SHQ, but the internal structure of each Troop has changed. **Maj Dave Baxter** is still in the driving seat, with **Lt Ray Scott** as 2IC and **Lt Kieran Lavery** as comms officer.

'A' Troop is now the Commcen Tp under the control of **2Lt Shelly Hardie** and **SSgt John McAreavey**.

'B' Troop, the AMC Tp, is under the deft touch of **Lt David Given** and **SSgt Ronnie Gilliland**.

'C' Troop, the Radio Relay Tp, have **2Lt Hilary Bustard** but also a new Staff Sergeant, the newly promoted **SSgt Jim Murray**.

Also we welcome **OCdt Andy Woods**, who has recently joined 66 Sqn. An ex-Lance Corporal tech we wish him all the best as he embarks on the commissioning process starting with the DES in October.

It was with a touch of regret on Tuesday 9 February that **Maj Baxter** made a farewell presentation to **SSgt Liz Connors**. For many years **SSgt Connors** (nee **Mercer**) ruled with a rod of iron in T4, the domain of the DTgs! Although not leaving the Regiment, she has now gone to Training Squadron to co-ordinate trade training. This is a very arduous task and we wish her well in her new post.

'C' TROOP

The mad social whirl of 'C' Tp never ceases to amaze the rest of 40 Sig Regt. If they are not recovering from the effects of one party, they are planning the next! On Friday 5 February, the Blackthorn Club was taken over for a surprise party for **LCpl Pauline Godfrey** who is leaving the TA: but is coming back to work full-time in the training office. We wish her well in her new post. After the presentation by **LCpl Andy Vickers**, the compere **Cpl Davey Gillespie** was so overcome that he could not resist giving us a rendition of his own. He has already been booked for the next function! Thanks to **Maj Jimmy Woods** for the invite to 69 Sig Sqn in Londonderry, we'll certainly take you up on the offer. Thanks also to **Tommy** for the excellent disco.

The ballot was drawn by **SSM Cahoon** and won by Troop OC **2Lt Hilary Bustard**—despite popular opinion the draw was not fixed! Many thanks to **LCpl Karen Walker** for all her hard work in the organisation of the function and to **Sgt Ernie Cahoon** for the provision of the buffet!

Many congratulations go out to **Cpls Sandy Doggart, Janet Coates, LCpls Karen Walker** and **Roberta Campbell** on their recent promotions. All rumours that **Cpl Coates** got her second tape for making tea are totally unfounded despite the fact that she is the organiser of the Saturday tea club! Very well done to all members of 'C' Troop on our 100% pass rate in the recent RSIT. We did so well we're getting another Triffid!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **SSgt John McAreavey** for all his dedicated hard work and for the assistance given to me since I had the privilege to join 'C' Troop in October 1987, all the very best in your new job in 'A' Troop. **Big John** is a very hard act to follow but newly promoted **SSgt Jim Murray** is a welcome addition to 'C' Troop—the best Troop in 40 Sig Regt.

TA CHEF OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

A Culinary Arts Competition was held in the TA Centre on Sunday 29 November to elect the TA Chef of the Year 1987. The event was sponsored by Catering Branch, HQNI with a local TV gourmet personality, **Miss Claire Connery** acting as one of the main judges.

All the major TA Units took part and the Regiment gave a good account of itself with **SSgt Ray Bate** winning third place.

The main event consisted of cooking a three course meal within a set budget with ancillary sections preparing potatoes, egg, packed meal and butter cream gateau.

Our other successes of the day were **Pte Anderson**, second place in Egg Section and third place in Packed Meal. **SSgt Bates**, second place in Canapes and **Sgt Trimble**, third place in the Gateau Section.

Chef at work. SSgt Ray Bates, after cooking the meal which won third place in the TA Chef of the Year Competition

News from Squadrons

JCUFI
BFPO 655

UHQ
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Martin-Rhind**
2IC	**Flt Lt Buckel**
USM	**WO2 (USM) Aitken**
UQMS	**Sgt Blackmore**
Clerk	**Cpl Grant**
Stores	**LCpls Bailey & Deas**

The 'sharp end' of JCUFI hasn't seen many personnel changes in the last month, the only two being **LCpl Sean Hyland** who was replaced by **LCpl Jim Deas**, who assures us he will lose some weight before long. The other one was **LCpl Al 'Boggy' Bolton** who has been replaced by **LCpl Phil 'soon to be Boggy' Bailey**. The name Boggy derives from the fact that all LCpl Stores Accountants, (new name for the uninitiated) posted to JCUFI seem to enjoy cleaning toilets and corridors, washing down and painting wagons, and generally just doing dirty jobs.

The USM **WO2 (USM) Pete Aitken** has been given two tasks by the OC, before he gets issued his 'Gozome' ticket. The first is to obtain tri-service stable belts, which are (or so he assures us) in the pipeline. The second task is much more enjoyable, at least the USM seems to think so, and that is to win the cross-country championship. The first question every 'FNG' (Falklands new guy) is asked, on initial interview is, 'Do you run?' just for the record, according to the USM we have already won the championship (he's now after the basketball gong); I'd better mention the fact that he does work sometimes.

As for the rest of UHQ, the OC is still trying to beat the USM at cross-country, keep trying sir, your day will come. The 2IC (our one and only blue job in UHQ), is still sailing and still burning his face. Will he never learn? **Cpl Dave Grant** who must be the busiest person in JCUFI, actually hasn't punched or threatened anybody this week, must be a record. His most important job (apart from booking my flight home) is looking after Jack the JCUFI sunflower, ever since he was kidnapped by people unknown. We have our suspicions, so look out the Navy at the transmitter site. **Sgt Richie Blackmore**'s only claim to fame (apart from being the author) is that he always gets more blueys than the USM, the other thing is that he has kept one of his New-Year resolutions, and has been out running nearly every day, the other resolution was broken at about 0002 hrs on 1 January.

That's all for now from JCUFI UHQ, except to say to everyone who is looking forward to a tour down here this year, stag on, nobody's got that long to do.

Back row left to right: Sig Richy Gathercole, Cpl Biddy Baxter, LCpls Sean Filer, Charly Farley, Stig Richards, Sigs Bert Reynolds, Chris Fallon and LCpl Max Maxwell
Front row left to right: Cpls Matt Helm, Scouse Bradley, Capt (TOT) Davey, Sgt Rocky Hudson, Cpl Scouse Sartorius, Sigs Frankie Lane

FALKLAND ISLANDS TRUNKS SYSTEM

Even though you haven't heard from us in a long while we are alive (but only just).

PERSONALITIES

SSgt	**Gordon Bennett**
Sgt (newly promoted)	**Gaz Wilson**
Cpls	**'Tweaky' Robinson—Mt Kent**
	Joc (the block) Robinson—Mt Kent
	Griff Griffin—Byron
	Kev (don't forget me!) Smith—Stanley
FOG'S	
Sgt (newly promoted)	**Paddy 'Fish' Hurge-Mogg**
Cpl	**Karl (I'm not really mad) Povey**
FNG'S	
Cpls	**Pete Furness**
	Marc Findon
	Kev Wasika

Keep your chin's up lads, not long to go now, (Happy Easter).

FITS, contrary to popular opinion, is working well. This is due to the hard work and dedication given it by all members of the FITS team. All credit to them. The FNG'S have a lot to live up to, they'll get there with, or without, Syscon's co-operation.

Farewells are in order to **Sgt Paddy (Fish) Hurge-Mogg**, he's managed to 'wing' his way back home, short toured to Woolwich, the 'false indication's shown here' have gone as well. **Cpl Karl 'Mad' Povey**—he actually managed to complete his tour without being certified insane, good luck in 7 Sig Regt 'Matey'. And to our Foreman, how is the chuff charts coming along? Only 10 months now or is it five weeks!

JOC RADIO HUT F.I.
Present inhabitants of No 1 Stanley Road
Sgt Jimmy Johnstone
Sgt Andy Andrew
Sgt Billy Young
Cpl Rob Warren
LCpl Pepe Fernandes
LCpl Andy Nelson
Sig Andy Wilson
Sig Steve Bartliff
Sig Thomo Thompson

As with any short detachment, by the time, you, the reader get to learn all about us, most will have gone back to their mother units long since, but life at No 1 carries on regardless and at the moment the sun is shining, the suntans are coming on and preparations for the the next exercise are being thought about seriously.

Those of you who thought that this was an exercise free zone are sadly misinformed but before you get out the thermals and camp beds, hold firm. They only last for a day or two and for those who believed that Green Cam wouldn't blend in with the brown and dust coloured background then you would be right. It doesn't, talk about spot the squaddie . . .

Apart from ourselves we can't forget about our three detachments away from MPA. We have the lads on both Mt Adam and Campito doing wonders despite shortages of equipment and washing facilities. All thanks to hard working people like **Cpl Stevie Crabb, Sigs Jock Whyllie** and **Taff Treharne** and also **Cpl Pondie Franks, LCpl Ritchie Brett** and **Sig Jim Watt**, and out in the wilderness of South Georgia we have the team of **Cpl John Dallinson, LCpl Paul Beattie** and **Sig Aide Bakes**. This must be the only place in the world where over 50% of the detachment ask for an extension of their tour. Maybe they have something down there that we back here in MPA know nothing about.

So to all you readers who at some time or other will have the unenviable joy at being told 'You are going to the Falklands', take heart. Things could be worse, though we doubt it.

And as the saying goes—'the Falklands isn't the end of the world, but you can as sure as heck, see it'.

JOC SYSTEMS

Systems JOC (Joint Operations Centre) Falkland Islands, consists of eleven Royal Signals personnel. They include the **FofS, Mick Flaherty**, two Monarch techs, **Cpls Vince Murphy** and soon to leave **Ade Winterbottom.** The rest of the set up consists of two day workers, **Sgt 'Kiwi' Marshall** and **Cpl Phil McKenzie**, three sets of shift workers, **Cpls John Smith, Keith Dywer, Graham Potter, Stevie Stephens, Al Hinton** and **Carl Rimmer**.

All of us have recently finished our T1's and were immediately sentenced to four months down in the South Atlantic (nobody amongst us confesses to any crime other than passing our T1's).

We work alongside matelots (great bunch of blokes) and crabs. The hours are long and everybody counts the days to their gozome. One or two people have confessed to enjoying it (they are now seeing the doctor). Things could be worse, at least the facilities for sport are very good with three gyms and ample squash courts that would shame many garrisons in the UK.

With an interesting job to do the time passes quickly and you are able to get around the islands a bit. Christmas and New Year are now behind us and we can settle down to the serious business of thinking about returning to our units.

I have only one question; if this place is called RAF Mount Pleasant, how come the systems are run by Royal Signals?

AIRFIELD CABLE CONTROL (ACC)

As always the faces and characters of Telemechs and Linemen in Airfield Troop are forever changing. So to all potential Falkland new guys out there enjoying life at present, don't believe all the myths and horror stories that you will have had the pleasure of listening to from Falkland veterans. Life here in the desolate wastelands of the southern hemisphere is not that bad.

We are not forgotten about either as we all had the pleasure of meeting OIC MRO, but a sense of impending doom and despondency was felt by all Telemechs as we were asked what our opinions were of doing a six month tour.

Work at MPA and Stanley is as hectic as usual with the normal day to day routine tasks of line testing (will technicians never believe us when we tell them our lines are good?), works orders (normally when higher management change offices around and discover the phone doesn't reach its new location), underground cable maintenance (normally after the ravages of the Royal Engineers JCB's) and also project work; new ones seem to appear monthly. One of the main projects at present is the changeover from Lookout to Hillside Camp. The current installation team being **Cpl 'Biddy' Baxter** Liney, Telemechs **Cpl 'Griff' Griffiths** and **LCpl 'Charley' Farley**. **'Biddy'** informs us that both were last seen warming up and getting ready for take off at Stanley runway.

Congratulations must go to **Sig Graham Fitt** for eventually finding his way back to his transit accommodation. When found fast asleep elsewhere he said 'I was only lost for 45 minutes'.

Our sporting achievements to date include coming a very creditable 2nd in the **Sig Colin Jack** Trophy, an annual event inherited from 266 Sig Sqn, which involves all JCUFI personnel. Also congratulations must go to the USM's runners, **Sig Pete Longden** and **Sig Rab McPhail** for finishing in the first 20 out of 23 runners, in the unit cross country. They in turn would like to thank the dirty druids who were willing to offer their remedies for blistered feet, and if anyone noticed a scar on **Sig Frankie Lanes** forehead, it was due to a collision with a cricket ball.

ACC would like to finish with a small anecdote 'Powermen can't fight.'

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, Combined Service Publications, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

ALPHA TROOP
DAY ONE 1988

The first day back at work started as does every other first day after leave with a tab. Bringing up the rear of the Squadron 95% of the troop made the finish together with only one or two struggling. The tab finished and the troop got down to the hard work of preparing for the rest of a busy year. Six of the troop set off to RAF Brize Norton for some Rigging Training in preparation for the 5 AB rigging competition.

RIGGING—WHAT IS IT?

Rigging is the preparation of an FFR three quarter ton LR and Trailer for dropping on a medium stress platform from a C130 Hercules transport plane. The teams left for Brize Norton for two days training before the start of the competition on Friday 8 January. The teams worked well and a lot was learnt by all in a short space of time. After the build-up they relaxed in the comfort of the RAF's 'Spot Light' Club before travelling to South Cerney ready to start. Seventeen teams began the competition at 0915 hrs with both the Signal Squadron teams finishing their rigs in about three and a half hours. A very good time. The 'B' team managed to achieve third place with the 'A' team only gaining 11th place due to a slight error with their tanks. Our congratulations to both teams.

A Team: Cpls Chris McGinley, 'Ginge' Border Trg Wing, **LCpls Dougie Craig, Chaz Challice** TM Troop and **'Jacko' Jackson** B Troop.

B Team: Rod Cowan B Troop, **LCpls J. J. Walker, Colin Wood, Carl Weaver** and **Sig Paul Ramsden.**

Sgt Barnett has just returned from his RSSSC and is to be congratulated on gaining first place on his course with a B+ report. **LCpl 'Moby' Whale** is in Kenya with 1 Para for six weeks. Last of all **SSgt Cakebread** is back at school doing his service fund accounting course—rumour has it that he's posted to the Sergeants' Mess. The troop welcomes **LCpl 'Mac' McGlashan** to the brotherhood and **LCpl Tony Philbrick** back after a couple of years away.

TM TROOP
CHINOOK SPECIALISTS

With all the operator elements away on a Comms Cadre it was left to the paratroopers of TM Troop and SHQ to fly the airborne flag. A Chinook helicopter descent had been organised, dropping onto Hankley Common. With our apprehension growing the descent was declared 'A Goer'. We quickly found ourselves in a Chinook in groups of 20 ready to be dispatched in sticks of five. It was not long before the order came 'Stand up, Hook up', after everyone had been checked over, the No 1 was brought to the door. 'Red On', a bit of a leg shake then 'Go'. Adopting a Yogi-bear position, No 1 was away into the slip stream, canopy open and enjoying the ride down. With what can only be described as a 'sporting wind', many new ideas of how to land were on display. After landing, a quick check of all vital parts, the chutes packed away and back to the RV.

The Troop would like to welcome **Sgt Nick Preston** from his T1 upgrading course in Catterick and **LCpl Sweet** fresh from Harrogate. **LCpls Hargreaves** and **Taylor** are here on attachment and finally a welcome back to **Cpl 'Block' Robertson** who has finally decided to come in from the cold.

THE UKLF SEDIST FINAL OF THE MINOR UNITS NOVICE GRADE III TEAM BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 22 January the Signal Squadron, once again, found itself in the SEDist final against our old airborne rivals in the form of 9 Para Sqn RE. Previous form would have suggested that 1987/1988 would bring victory again for 9 Sqn, but this was not to be the case. The evening began with a very confident fight by **Sig Gratrick** despite problems with his weight. He produced a very convincing three round points win by value of his skill and aggression. This set the mould for the evening and was quickly followed by a close fought contest between **LCpl Jackson** and **Spr Mair** with a points win for **LCpl Jackson**, continuing his success from the previous year.

Next came **Cpl 'Scouse' Bauress** against a very experienced **Spr Barnes**. Despite a lack of reach **Cpl Bauress** entered the third round with the match even. Unfortunately he tired towards the end allowing the Sapper to snatch a close points victory. **LCpl Langley** also met an experienced fighter in **Spr Veal** in the light middleweight. However his southpaw lead and crouched stance made him an elusive target and he worked hard for a points win. **Cpl Oliver** at middleweight met his match in **Spr Butterton** and produced a brave and aggressive stand but was well beaten. The light heavyweight division gave **LCpl 'Taff' Bowen** the chance to work off some more of the 'Fosters' he consumed on Ex Long Look. With some 'exocet' right hands he quickly gained victory. The final bout was welterweight. The Squadron's boxer was a very determined and aggressive looking **Cpl 'Ginge' Udell**. From the time the bell went he exploded into the ring producing a barrage of punches knocking his opponent out in the first round. Overall it was a tremendous victory 5—2 which is a credit to the dedication of the team and the training of **Sgt Richards**. It is now onto the Army UKLF final in February—good luck.

The Team: Sig Gratrick B Troop, **LCpls Jackson** B Troop, **Oliver** B Troop, **Langley** B Troop, **LCpl Bowen** TM Troop, **Cpl Bauress** A Troop, and **Cpl Udell** B Troop, Manager/Trainer **Sgt Richards.**

MILITARY TRAINING CADRE

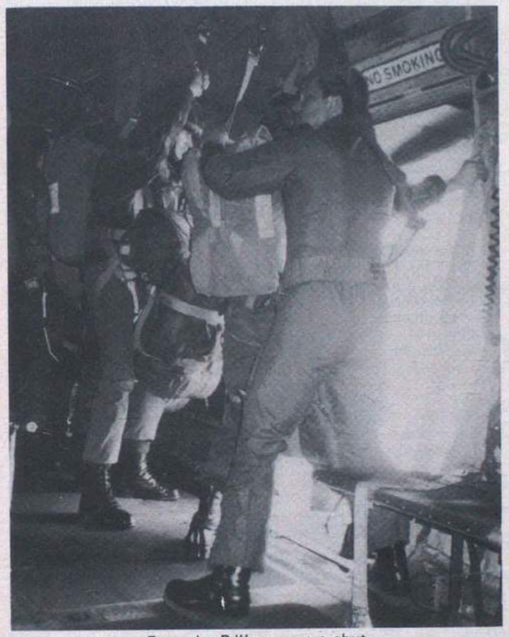
Under the tender loving care of **SSgt Neilsen** of the Training Wing the soldiers of Alpha and Bravo Tp underwent a week of training to enhance and revise their basic military skills. The course covered such subjects as SLR and GPMG handling, vehicle manoeuvring, helicopter handling and a display of night viewing aids. Thankfully, however, there was not a period of 'drill'. **SSgt Duncan RCT** explained the in's and out's of the vehicle documentation and then went on to describe the intricacies of accident procedure. During this period he attempted to reassure the doubters that in the event of a crash in which they were at fault, they still would not have to pay the full cost of the repair.

7 RHA came down to show us some of the night viewing devices that are available in the Army. All of this equipment is at their disposal to use in their forward observation posts. One noticeable omission from the display was the NATO standard issue carrot! On Wednesday evening both groups had the opportunity to go out onto the local area and use the equipment. Thursday morning was filled with helicopter handling drills. The RCT provided us with two corporals to lecture and teach us how to rig a landrover and trailer to be underslung beneath a Chinook. Later on the RAF appeared with a Chinook to give us the necessary practical experience. They also took us up for a short flight over Long Valley which had turned into another Passchendale again. In a question and answer period that followed one soldier was not content with the statement that a Chinook, if it landed in the sea, would not sink. He wanted to know what would happen if the aircraft landed on its side in the sea. The RAF told us that if we landed on our sides we would be dead anyway!

Cpl Davies of the Pathfinder Platoon took us for a period of stripping and assembling the SA80. This was an excellent period and we built on the knowledge we had gained on the weapon in Cyprus last May. The final period of the course was taken by **RSM Harper**, who instructed us on prisoner handling. This was a very interesting and exceptionally painful period as we learnt various pain-inducing holds. **Sig Welsh** added his contribution—a thumb lock designed to cause instant submission by any person. The overall view was that all-in-all it had been a week well spent. Some periods had been of general interest whilst others had dusted off the cobwebs.

LCpl 'Taff' Thomas Reloading on the move

Green On—Go



Even the PJI's eyes are shut

COMMS CADRE

Nescliffe (near Shrewsbury) was the location for the first Comms Cadre of 1988. The party, ably led by **Yeoman Roden** arrived on Sunday evening 24 January shortly followed by a dramatic entrance by **2Lt Andy Addison**—which was to be the first of many!

After an initial day of general communication lectures we concentrated on four main pieces of equipment. The Trend teleprinter was taught by **Cpl (I don't want to be a Yeoman) Owen** and **Cpl (living in a box) Taylor.** It proved to be a most versatile piece of equipment if not occasionally a little tempermental, even the Officers picked it up. The 319, the new HF patrol set, was taught by **Cpls Corley** and **Kurthausen**—when he wasn't training the Lanyard Trophy Team. For those who have not used the equipment it's great—full of lots of little added extras including explosive (but your're not allowed to dispose of them) Lithuim batteries. The 510 manpack satellite was ably demonstrated by **Cpls Smith** and **McGinley** and was used with almost 100% success by the students with only minimal instruction. The final stand was a rebroadcast station, both vehicle and manpack based. Instruction by **LCpls Craig, Labrum, Rowlands** and **Walker.** Overall it was a great success, with lots of interest generated and practical lessons learnt on new equipment that is now in use with the Squadron. Here's to the next Cadre, only, can we have some different videos?

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 Dave Raleigh**
OC N Tp	**Capt Julian Bunce**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andy Scott**
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**

The New Year got off to a quick start; we were straight into our ARU.

CHANGE OF COMMANDER

The entire brigade came to Goojerat Barracks on Tuesday 15 December 1987 to say farewell to our old brigade commander **Brig T. P. Toyne Sewell.** True to tradition, the brigade commander was carried out on a somewhat 'spirited' Saxon (armoured vehicle) pulled by the brigade staff officers with the assistance of the 1 Bn The Royal Green Jackets. Farewell and best wishes to **Brig Toyne Sewell.** The Squadron warmly welcomes **Brig A. W. Freemantle MBE** and his family and hope they have a most enjoyable tour with the brigade.

ARU

At 0345 hrs on Tuesday 19 January the usual tranquility of a Goojerat Barracks night was shattered by loud music from the Top Gun film, signalling the start of 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn ARU. If the OC **Maj John Davies** method of reveille surprised the Squadron it totally shocked the other units who share the barracks with us.

The day started with a CFT ably guided by members of 3 RGJ, who during the whole test were unable to run once; obviously marching at 160 beats/minute renders running muscles inoperative. Nonetheless every team covered the distance well inside the time required.

The second part of the report was a series of stands on all the basic military skills. This phase was also run as an inter troop/departmental competition. The MT/LAD section ran into few problems when they came to the command task of crossing a ditch and stream with a half ton trailer. LAD members promptly set to mending the trailer while MT tried to book a four tonner to get it across. Despite this, they still managed to win the competition.

The third part of the competition involved the Squadron deploying onto Stanford Training Area. 1 Sqn RCT provided an enemy to test our defence capabilities. Each of the two locations had an ad hoc defence section made up from pioneers, drivers and orderly room staff, and were led by the Chief Clerk **SSgt Sandy Campbell** and the Pay Sergeant **Colin Jackson.** These sections performed extremely well with every member keen and enthusiastic. Our patience was rewarded when two members of 1 Sqn RCT were apprehended trying to enter a location, sheepishly pleading that they were members of the RCTs JMQC (Junior Military Qualification Certificate). R Signals 1 RCT O; a fitting end to the ARU.

EXERCISE PANTHERS CHARGE

Ex Panthers Charge led directly from the ARU and was aimed at testing the Squadron's ability to move locations rapidly and in quick succession. The only problems encountered were by those who tried to locate a complex having been away for any period of time. It invariably resulted in an incessant chase across country with the complex one step ahead of the pursuer.

Heavy snow fell on the morning of 22 January, heavy enough in fact to render the SOinCs visit to the Squadron in the field impractical. It was however too late to warn off the Admin Officer **Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC** and the Families Officer **Sgt Jim Wells,** both of whom arrived to vigorous shakes of the head and the news that they would have to return to Colchester straight away. Sorry **Pauline.**

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 1987

Report by Capt Julian Bunce

'Have bergen, will travel'.

It was another of those tedious days in barracks. At about 1000 hrs I finally woke up and wandered over to SHQ for coffee and to inspect the mail.

Suddenly the whole year brightened:-

> 'Dear Captain Bunce,
> You have been selected as contingent commander for the UK contingent in New Zealand August to December 1987.'

Having checked the date to confirm it wasn't 1 April, I began rearranging my plans for the rest of the year. I also bought some more pips.

August finally arrived. After much packing and repacking of kit, I decided not to bother with Mess kit, service dress etc so I could take all my skiing and canoeing equipment. Just before leaving I uttered those useful words every troop commander is taught:-

> 'Carry on, Staff'. **SSgt Dave Parry** looked relieved to see me disappear.

South Cerney, Brize Norton, Dusseldorf and finally Sydney airport, where the official welcome consisted of being handed a can of Fosters. Twenty four hours later we were airborne again, this time with the RNZAF bound for Auckland, New Zealand. After another lengthly period of transit, I finally arrived in my new home Waiouru. The natives seemed friendly enough, and the beer went down well despite being rather cold.

I was a little apprehensive as I was shown an office in the School of Signals marked 'TOT' and it did stand for 'Technical Officer Telecommunications'. My concern proved to be unnecessary as the boss explained there was no question of me having to do anything 'technical'. It took about a week before I realised I wasn't actually expected to do anything at all, technical or otherwise.

Life in the RNZ Signals is very different. Initially one had to comprehend the scale: there are more troops in 19 Inf Bde than the entire New Zealand Army. The communications were basic point to point links rather than area coverage and I had great problems explaining Ptarmigan deployment in I (BR) Corps.

Waiouru did rather resemble Dartmoor but had some advantages: downhill skiing on Mount Rhapeau was only 30 minutes away and the canoeing was good too. I took full advantage of the opportunity to travel widely and covered most of New Zealand whilst I was there. The RNZAF operate a 'round the islands' flight three times a week for military and government personnel and the words 'Long Look' were guaranteed to secure a seat.

Capt Julian Bunce with the entire NZ signal staff (well almost)

Travel is almost a national pastime in New Zealand and every Kiwi wants to escape and visit the rest of the world. Long Look is regarded as a cheap way of visiting Europe and they feel obliged to show 'The Poms' as much of their country as possible. I had no major objections to this. For anyone heading that way, I must recommend the Rotura Thermal Area, Mount Look and the Franz Joseph glacier, Queenstown, Milford Founel . . . and even the cities Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

I even managed to fit in a short trip to Australia for some serious canoeing in the Snowy Mountains and loose living in Sydney.

The flight back with the RNZAF was a very pleasant way of finishing the trip. Not used to long haul flights, we made our way back in leisurely fashion with overnight stops in Singapore, Bahrain and Cyprus to arrive back at Brize Norton in shirt sleeve order to a very chilly one degree.

I would like to thank **Capt Fred Connor** for deciding to marry **Tracy** and giving me his vacant slot. Whenever I see a can of Steinlager I will be reminded of those days of 'G'day mate'', 'Not a problem sport' and life in the 'Antipodes'.

PAPA TROOP

Papa Tp has had a great deal of new blood over the past few months as a result it is now able to hold its own manpower wise, against the two larger troops. November saw the arrival of **LCpl John Weighill** and who has inherited the dubious honour of being OC's driver.

2Lt Andy Scott joined the Squadron early in January having come straight from Sandhurst, yet another in the line of Papa Tp young, temporary OCs. He is here long enough however to swan off to the Ascension Island diving. Sorry did I say swan I meant graft hard enough to ensure an expedition can go to the Ascension Island.

The Squadron has received a large number of men as a result of the disbandment of the Rear Link Detachments. In that vein we welcome **LCpl Philip Tubb** and **Sig Mayell** from 1 A & SH and **LCpl Luck** and **Sig Pitchforth** from 3 Royal Regt of Fusiliers. Hopefully they can still remember the odd thing about the corps despite their absence.

The troop also welcome **Sig Brooks** who has come straight from 8 Sig Regt. Flying Falcon should prove a good introduction to the Squadron and his job.

Whilst we welcome many new faces we must also say farewell to **LCpl Andy Cummings** who has not only looked after the Sultan but the Troop **Sgt Steve Rook** as well. Good luck in 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The troop has Flying Falcon to look forward to this month. All that is with the exception of **Sgt Steve Rook** who has decided that Germany is too cold and has therefore opted to spend six weeks in Catterick. Someone told him that the Staff Sergeants course was a doddle.

Well ferry strike or not we will see you after Flying Falcon.

FITTER SECTION

The LAD/Fitter Section completed the month of December 1987 with good spirits of all sorts, whisky, vodka, gin, etc etc but apart from the usual Christmas extravaganzas which went down well, we were all involved in many CFT's and BFT's in preparation for the coming ARU, staged during January 1988.

This involved all our members working furiously to complete the vehicles and equipment for a three day exercise immediately following the ARU.

The ARU was staged in competition form involving a CFT, Recognition, NBC, First Aid and Map reading stands, plus an initiative task in which everyone got covered in mud. The results are in reverse order:-

Oscar	—	3rd
November	—	2nd
LAD/MT	—	1st

Well done the attached personnel.

We are now extremely busy working towards Ex Flying Falcon which takes place in Germany in the first week of February 1988.

FAMILIES

The Squadron wishes to congratulate **Cpl Carl** and **Jacqueline Davies** and **LCpl Dave** and **Pauline Connolly** on their recent marriages.

INS AND OUTS

The Squadron warmly welcomes: **SSgt David McMillan, Sgts Andy Dewis, Jim Roney, Cpls Terry Butler, Bob Lewis, Dave Blakey, LCpls Jeremy Maciejewski, Terry Tubb, Dave Luck** and **Sig Steve Smith, Gary Phillips, Steve Brooks, Steve Mayell, Dave Pitchford, Dave Aitken**, and **Pte Steve Harrod** and **Spr Mick Ward**.

We sadly say farewell and good luck to: **Maj Stephen Matthews, Capts Fred Connor, Richard Carrow, Phillip Crook, WO1 Bert Eastwood, SSgts Les Bate, Tommy Wright, Sgts Dave Evans, 'Ash' Richardson, Cpls Leon Brookes, Jock Martin, Dave Bolton, LCpls Carl Tweddle, 'Hoppy' Hopwood, 'Spot' Hinchcliffe, Andy Cummings, Dave Farey, Paul Merrifield, Trevor Legg, Paul Senter** and **WPte Anita Hill**.

LOOK FORWARD

The Squadron has a busy few months ahead involving us in a skiing expedition in Kinrara, a diving expedition in Ascension, playing Civpop for 45 RA during NI training. Somehow we even have a weeks block leave fitted in, however we first have to negotiate Flying Falcon; see you when we return.

FOOTBALL

The season continues to be one of tribulations. The shortage and non availability of key players is a situation which we hope will change before next season commences. In spite of all these pitfalls, the squad remains in hard training and still produces extremely creditable results. Outstanding performances have been attributed to **LCpls Mark Rouse, Dave Bowser** and **Sgt Colin Jackson**.

New members to the squad include **LCpl Jim Beardsley** (that name rings a bell). We are negotiating terms with Liverpool for the release of his cousin on a game by game basis.

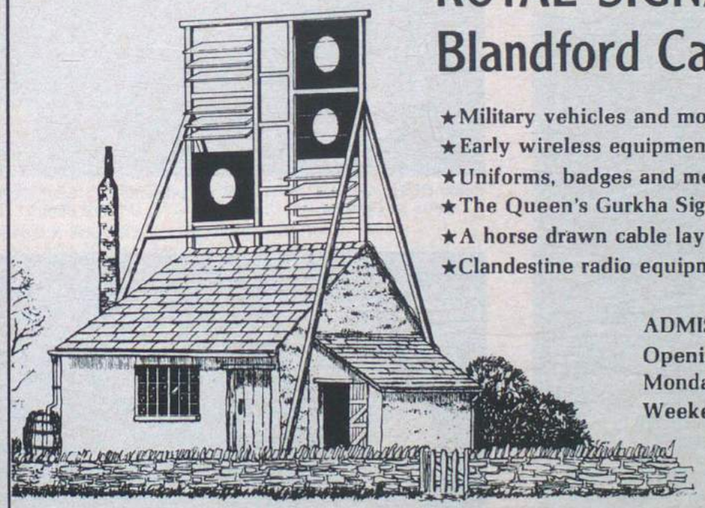
Sgt Chris Allen has formally applied for the job of manager of the Watford Town Football Club, but **SSgt Bob Berry** has placed too high a price label on him so it looks as though we are stuck with him for another year.

The Team Photo 1987/88

Back Row (L to R): Sgt Chris Allen (Manager/Trainer/Coach), Cpl George Sheppard, Cfn 'Splash' Wilson, 'Skid' Wilkes, LCpls 'Lofty' Mullin, Steve Armstrong, Cpls Billy Flemington, Trev Heaven, 'Oggie' Ogden and Pte Gaz Barker

Front Row (L to R): Sig Andy Snelle, LCpl Dave Bowser, Sgt Colin Jackson, LCpls Jim Beardsley, Mark Rouse, Al Dixon and Tony Waddington

Absent on Duty: SSgt Bob Berry and Capt Fraser Grant



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227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj B. Robinson**
2IC	**Capt C. S. O'Nians WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 A. W. Williams**
Ch Clk	**Sgt A. Gillard**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome the following, and their families, to the Squadron:- **Maj B. Robinson, Capt O'Nians, Capt Wallis, SSgts Toleman, Jones, Wetheritt, Sgts Kerr, Fox, Cpl Ellis, Sgt Lowes, Cpls Kee, Blenkinsop, LCpl Smith, Sig I. Smith, Naylor, Paxton** and **Tench**.

Thank you and good luck in your next postings to: **Maj** and **Mrs Ray Etheridge, WO1 (RSM) R. H. Gladwin** and **Shirley** (on commissioning), **Sgt** and **Mrs Meredith, SSgt Dave Arundel, SSgt Dave Letts** (leaving the Corps after 24½ years service), **Sgt** and **Mrs Blakley, Sgt Bell** (leaving the Corps but joining the TA), **Sgts Massey, Terrass, Thompson, Capt Coupar, Cpl** and **Mrs Middleton, Cpl** and **Mrs Crashley, Cpl** and **Mrs Stewart, Cpls Martin, Lucas, LCpl** and **Mrs Hoggarth, LCpl** and **Mrs Royall, LCpl Stapleton, Sig** and **Mrs Barrass** (on promotion), **Sig Brooks, Sgt Wilks, Sigs Taft** and **Reid**.

ARU 87

Brig R. G. Elliott OBE, Comd (BR) Comm Z visited the squadron on 27 October 1987, for our ARU. Having given us a good report the inspection ended with luncheon for all ranks at the Anchor Inn, culminating in the presentation of the LS&GC to **Sgt Bob Combe**.

WO's AND SGT's MESS

Four Regimental Dinners have been held recently, maintaining our tradition of dining out all Mess Members on posting. Most especially for, **Maj Ray 'lost my beret again' Etheridge**, on 10 October, which was a stag night, followed by dining in our new OC, **Maj B. Robinson** and the 2IC, **Capt C. S. O'Nians** WRAC on 26 November 1987, this time with the ladies, (due to much arm twisting by the wives). **WO1 (RSM) R. H. Gladwin** was dined out on 9 January, on his well deserved commissioning and posting to 28 Sig Regt. We all wish **Rod**, and **Shirley** all the best and every success in Germany.

Farewell presentation to Maj R. C. Etheridge (It's been different boys)—'Cheers'—all the best

CONGRATULATIONS

From all squadron members and their families to **WO2 (YofS) Tommy Baldwin** on the award of MID (N Ireland); **SSgt Dave Letts**, on the award of Comd CRSG AFCENT Commendation and to Sgts **Thompson** and **Sgt Combe** on receiving the LS&GC medal.

Also to **WO2 (SSM) Willams** and **Sgt O'Shea** on achieving an 'A' Pass in Service Funds Accounts Course. To **Cpl** and **Tina Nobbs** on the recent addition to their family, a daughter, **Yaisa Victoria**.

On ARU Parade—WO2 (YofS) T. Baldwin being presented with a MID for service whilst serving in N Ireland by Gp Capt Dru Drury, Commander CRSG

Comd CRSG AFCENT commendation presented to SSgt Dave Letts by Gp Capt Dru Drury; Capt C. S. O'Nians centre

Presentation of LSGC to Sgt Phil Thompson by Gen H. H. Von Sandrart (CINCENT). Gp Capt Dru Drury and WO2 (SSM) Williams in the background

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Peter Dick-Peter**
2IC	**Capt Therese Crook**
OC Oscar Tp	**Capt (Tfc) John Isherwood**
OC Radio Tp	**Capt Patrick Windsor-Brown**
	—(Des: Capt Mike Dunn)
OC Tels Tp	**Capt (TOT) Richard Howes**
SSM	**WO2 Alan Culton**
YofS	**WO2 Mal Channing**
SQMS	**SSgt Gus Hales**
CC	**Sgt Keith Hearn**

The end of one year and the beginning of the next is always a strange period, but seems to follow a similar pattern wherever you are. The Squadron is a hive of activity in early to mid December, with decorations sprouting from various office ceilings, and feverish, last minute arrangements for Troop and Squadron parties. This is followed by the Christmas/New Year stand down, when the place is deserted, leaving the unfortunate duty personnel to celebrate the festive season by watching the first showing on TV of many exciting new films (which they saw on video a couple of years ago!). Once the stand down is over, everyone rushes back to work fired with enthusiasm, batteries recharged and new year resolutions made—amazing! (and totally untrue). Yes, even in London, January eventually crawls into existence, amidst waves of apathy and speculation about when the Capital will be brought to a complete standstill by a freak snowstorm or hurricane.

As you will have gathered by now, newsworthy items are difficult to come by at this time of the year, but we do have some very nice photos of two events which took place at either end of 'Christmas'.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

After the 'mass exodus' of the last few months, we extend a warm welcome to our new Squadron members: **SSgt Geoff** and **Kay Baldry** from the Scarborough Training Centre, **Cpl 'Taff'** and **Kerry Bryant** from 633 Sig Tp, **WCpl Maria McKay** from 16 Sig Regt, **LCpl Andy Walker** from Int Sy Gp NI, **Cpl Paul Brickell** from AA Coll Harrogate, **WLCpl Helen** and **Christopher Poole** from Wroughton, **LCpl Chris** and **Bridget Bailey** from 29 Sig Regt, **Sig Mark** and **Lianne Crompton** from 1 Inf Bde, **WPte Nora Shelley** from training, **WPte Sarah Brown** from 16 Sig Regt, **WPte Lorraine Averill** from 10 Coy WRAC and **Sig 'H' Aitchison** from 249 Sig Sqn.

Naturally, few months pass by without losing a handful of 'old faithfuls'. Farewell and the best of luck to: **Sgt John** and **WCpl Kay Gibson** in their postings to 28 and 16 Sig Regts, respectively, **LCpl Gary** and **Lesley Skeels** to 251 Sig Sqn (on promotion to Cpl), **LCpl Andy Fryer** to 8 Sig Regt, **Pte Kay Wright** to 22 Sqn RCT and **Pte Pauline Batty** to the Gurkha Sig Sqn (both on promotion to LCpl), **Sig Paul** and **Margaret Meredith** to AA Coll Harrogate, **Sig 'Simmo' Simpson** to 3 Div Sig Regt and **Sig Phil Morris**, now serving with the Kent Police Force.

24 HOUR SPONSORED TRAMPOLINE

Way back in November **LCpl Julie Baker** (a keen trampolinist) had the bright idea of bouncing up and down on a trampoline for 24 hours, to raise money for the NSPCC. The date was set for the weekend 23/24 January, and she began to persuade a team of 'willing volunteers' from the WRAC element of the Squadron to participate (even the 2IC didn't have a good enough excuse to get out of it!)

The dreaded day dawned, and at 0900 hrs the OC and a representative from the NSPCC commenced the 'bouncing' amidst a rather festive atmosphere. Once the photos had been taken and **LCpl Baker** had shown us all how it should be done, the teams took over to start what was to be a very long 24 hours. The 13 participants were split into two teams as follows:-

Team 1: **Cpls 'Mitch' Salmon, Janette Dallimore, LCpl Julie Baker, Ptes Jane Cox, Julie Smith** and **Deanna Barker.**

Team 2: **Capt Therese Crook, Ptes Lynn Buckle, Sarah Howell, Lynette Jones, Simone Rouse, Linda Strachan** and **Sue Webb.**

During the first 12 hour period the teams rotated every two hours, and after two or three sessions each, limbs started to ache and joints to creak! To allow a longer period of rest during the 'small' hours of the morning, the second 12 hour period was split into three hour sessions. Fatigue and exhaustion were definitely starting to set in, and motivation was rather low when team 2 literally crawled back into the gym at 0600 hrs for the last three hour stint. Fortunately, by inventing new 'games' to play whilst jumping up and down, they managed to ease the stiff backs and aching legs into action and struggle on until 0900 hrs on a bright and sunny Sunday morning.

It was a relief to stop and pack away the trampoline. After a quick celebration the gym was rapidly evacuated as everyone crept away to catch up on some well earned sleep. Hopefully, by the time all the sponsorship money has been collected, the Squadron will have raised about £700 for a worthy cause, but it has probably put 13 people off trampolining for life!

The OC starts off the 24 hour 'bounce' with Jean from the NSPCC

LCpl Julie Baker shows us all how it's supposed to be done. Some meters below Cpl Salmon takes the opportunity to pose for the cameras, Pte Smith just cannot believe her eyes, and Capt Crook wonders if she too could jump that high

INTER TROOP IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Unfortunately we could not obtain a VIP for 16 December, so **Cpl Rachel O'Pray** (PTI) inflicted on the long suffering members of the Squadron another of her infamous afternoons of 'fun and games'.

The competition comprised six events, three of which were due to take place in the swimming pool. However, due to a slight technical hitch (the Irish Guards had emptied the pool!) and therefore in the interests of safety, our ever resourceful PTI managed to dream up three new 'dry' events, leaving the afternoons line up as follows:-

Event 1 'Balloon Burst', Event 2 'Ping Pong', Event 3 'Dress me up', Event 4 'Three Legged', Event 5 'Workmen', Event 6, 'Flour Game'. 'What no Fil Rouge?'

As one can obviously see, it was a very serious competition, where competitors started off looking a little bit silly, half way through looked extremely silly, and ended up looking like complete 'wallies'. Fortunately, one attribute the 'Sloane' Squadron is not lacking in, is a sense of humour! It was just as well.

The teams had to consist of four players, including at least one female. Five teams originally entered the competition, with a late entry by a very confident 'Room 108'. Room 108 is one of the single male accommodation rooms in which reside the fit and athletic; **LCpl Sammy Anderson, Sig Paul Haughton** and **John Flinn**. To complete the team **LCpl Jo Inman** was 'hijacked' from the WRAC block, and in spite of requests from the rest of the team, the OC would not allow her to move into Room 108!

And so the fun commenced, with rows of balloons carefully stuck to the gym floor, and blindfolded individuals stamping on imaginary balloons, and other people's feet, in an effort to burst them. The afternoon progressed from the sound of bursting balloons (and lots of shouting), to ping pong balls being chased around the gym, followed by; attempting to put on a strange assortment of clothes that are either too big or too small (or inside out, which is even more confusing), and trying to complete an obstacle course with someone tied to one of your legs! The penultimate game involved the team members leaping into a pair of overalls and trying to run up and down the gym in oversized 'wellies'. After this event, two teams had emerged as joint leaders; a still very confident Room 108 and Tels/SHQ B, with Tels/SHQ A still in with a chance of winning.

The final event was very familiar to those who have watched 'Crackerjack' in their youth (or heard about it from their parents). It involved 'rescuing' an apple from a large bowl of water with one's teeth (preferably whilst still in the mouth!) and then doing likewise from a large bowl of flour. This event, run two teams at a time, was obviously greatly enjoyed by the competitors. They naturally wished to express their appreciation to **Cpl O'Pray**, who yet again failed to escape knowing that, although the swimming pool was empty, there were two large bowls of water and two large bowls of flour waiting to be put to good use!

Room 108 must have been too young to remember 'Crackerjack' and managed to come last in the flour game. **SSgt (SQMS) Gus Hales** (probably the proud owner of a Crackerjack pencil) had obviously briefed the younger members of his team; **LCpls 'Suts' Sutton, 'Kal' Kalmar** and **Pte Mandy Blackburn**, on Crackerjack tactics, as the Tels/SHQ B team came first in this event, thereby winning the competition. The results were as follows:-

1st	Tels/SHQ B	28 points
2nd	Room 108	23 points
3rd	Tels/SHQ A	21 points
4th	Radio/MT B	20 points
5th	Oscar	18 points
6th	Radio/MT A	17 points

Capt Patrick Windsor Brown enters into the spirit of the 'Flour Game', much to the amusement of Cpl Janette Dallimore

After a quick 'hose down' to remove wet, sticky flour from faces and hair (and all over in the case of **Cpl O'Pray**) the teams adjourned to the Squadron Club where the OC presented the Inter Troop Trophy to the winning team.

Is it a ghost? Is it the Abominable Snowman? No it's Cpl Rachel O'Pray after her dousing with water and flour!

A jubilant Pte Mandy Blackburn receives the Inter-Troop Trophy from the OC. In the background members of the 'Room 108' team look on enviously

The winning team and a 'cleaned up' version of the woman who made it all possible: *(L to R)*: LCpl 'Suts' Sutton, Pte Mandy Blackburn, Cpl Rachel O'Pray, SSgt Gus Hales and LCpl 'Kal' Kalmar

241 Sig Sqn
Donnington

In a short but moving ceremony in early November 1987 the responsibility for static communications in North West District was formally handed over from 241 Sig Sqn to 240 Sig Sqn. This much reduces the size of 241 Sig Sqn's 'parish', now comprising Western District and Wales. We will much miss our friends in the Telephone exchanges, Commcens and SWS detachments of North West District but look forward to having more time to spend on our detachments in Donnington, Shrewsbury, Tern Hill, Sutton Coldfield, Bramcote, Lichfield, Kineton, Long Marston, Hereford, Chepstow, Crickhowell, Brecon, Sennybridge, Cardiff, Pembroke and Castle Martin.

We welcome **Sgt Dick Booth** and his wife **Sue** from Hong Kong, and **LCpl Zdena Best**, our lady TE Tech. Sadly we are losing **Sgt John Shorter** to 233 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Bill Johnson** to AFCENT and **Cpl Paul Emerson** to 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Cpl Emerson** has spent his tour as a CCF Cadet Signal Instructor, and has done an excellent job in the Schools, as well as spending much time standing on boards blowing around on lakes.

COMMS TP PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Maj Bob Baker**
Supvr 'A'	**Mr Dave Griffiths**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Bill Johnson**

We are a small troop in a small Squadron. All the Troop members except the three personalities mentioned above are members of the WRAC. Our duties are to provide relief operators for Commcens and Exchanges throughout Wales and Western District. The girls are normally out on detachments of between one and two weeks.

Being such a small set up and always having people on detachment we find it difficult to get everyone together. Occasionally, we do manage it and this year we had a weekend hill walking which was enjoyed by all. We also try to have a water sports day on a local lake, weather permitting. We do have our monthly Squadron Handicap (a four mile run) and this is usually an enjoyable day out.

The Troop ladies recently put a team into the Donnington Scramble and did very well.

For all those people wanting to come here there are ample opportunities for Adventure Training and detachments, for example two WRAC personnel go on three months detchment with Royal Marines to Norway and four WRAC go to Summer Camp with 242 Sig Sqn (always enjoyed).

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The last few months have seen a rapid turnover in the Troop personalities. We would like to say goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Carol 'Stuckey' Stevens** and **Cpl Chris 'Can I have a Sports afternoon?' Taylor**—congratulations on your promotions. **Pte Britt 'Zippy' King** to Hong Kong, **Pte Jenny 'Earrings' Cotton**—to Penguin Island and **Pte Jane 'I want food' White** to Civvy Stret.

We would like to say welcome to **Ptes Liz Lee, Mandy Eardley, Karen Hill** and **Pte Diane Neale**. We hope you enjoy your stay.

Left to right: Maj David Stubbs, OC 241 Sig Sqn, Col (Retd) David Cattermull, SO2 Comms North Western District, Mr Bernard Moon, Supervisor, Preston Telephone Exchange, Maj Trevor Grice, OC 240 Sig Sqn, Mr Ted Downing, Supervisor, Preston Commcen

243 Sig Sqn
Wilton

The Squadron is now well established at Bulford and settled into its new routine. Manning to our new establishment has almost been achieved. The following notes contain a brief resumé of recent events.

ARRIVAL OF NEW SQUADRON COMMANDER

On 2 November **Maj P. A. Treseder** arrived to take over command of the Squadron from the 2IC, **Capt M. C. Gilyeat**. He soon found himself in the limelight with an informal visit from the Garrison Commander, **Brig M. J. Evans ADC** two days later and a formal visit from **Col M. Hales**, Controller AFTS, on the 9th. He then went on to tackle the mountain of paperwork which passes through the Squadron.

We all wish **Maj Treseder** and **Jane**, a pleasant time in the Squadron.

SWIMMING GALA

On Thursday 19 November the former Squadrons of 10 Sig Regt, 238, 243 and 251, met at Bulford to take part in a swimming gala. The event was organised by **Lt S. A. McLean WRAC** and certainly proved to be a success.

238 Sig Sqn from Chelsea proved to be a very strong side winning the first five events outright whilst 243 and 251 battled it out for second place. The early lead of 238, however, was gradually being reduced thanks largely to this Squadron's WRAC side, in particular **Ptes Sherry Took, Tanya Smallridge, SSgt Angie Warnes** and of course **Lt Sionnadh McLean**. In the end, however, lack of depth in the male squad allowed 238 Sig Sqn to take first place with 63 points, 243 were second with 53 points and 251 Sig Sqn third.

To round off the afternoon there was a chain of command race with each team consisting of four male and four female swimmers. The only problem was getting in, and out, of the coveralls. After a very exciting first five legs, 243 Sig Sqn took the lead and never looked like giving it up. They eventually finished well out in front.

OC 243 Sig Sqn presented the gala and the chain of command prizes at the end of the competition and thanked all those involved, including the officials, for laying on such a splendid event.

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIP

The Squadron entered a team of three WRAC in the above event which was held at Catterick on 24/25 October 1987. Their aim was to enjoy it and gain experience rather than to win.

The final positions were to prove the aims were well founded. Our results were two disqualifications in the team event and disqualification in the second day relay event.

The team of **Cpl Glynis Rogers, Ptes Caren Fellowes** and **Gill Wakerley**, however, refused to let these achievements get them down and have vowed to improve their performance next time.

PRESENTATION OF THE IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL

On Wednesday 18 November 1987 four of the Squadron management, The OC, 2IC, OC SWS TP, **Maj (TOT) P. Steegles**, and the Civilian Admin Officer **Mrs Angela Bingham**, attended the presentation of the Imperial Service Medal to **Mr Robert Michael King**, a former member of the SWS TP Detachment at Okehampton. The presentation was made by **Brig J. A. P. Russell ADC**, formerly Commander 2 Sig Bde.

Brig J. A. P. Russell ADC presenting Mr Robert Michael King with his Imperial Service Medal

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The rapid turnover within the Squadron has continued, and we say farewell to **Sgts Lester Piggott, Barny Phillips, SSgt Angie Warnes, LCpl Jock Yates, LCpl Julie McAllister, Ptes Tracey Harding, Kate Gifford, Lorna Nicholls, Bridget Hucker** and **Deborah Beams.**

In return we welcome **SSgt Carol Hoban, Cpl Ade Cook, Cpl Vince Tyler, LCpls Wendy James, Claire Barnes, Lyn Matthews, Liz Turnbull, Ptes Sarah Green, Jerry Lowe, Caroline Kerr, Trudy Garth, Karen Fellowes** and **Sig Dyson**. We hope you all have an enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT WOMENS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Six teams entered this, the first Womens District Championship, with the Squadron participating, under its recognised affiliation, as Wilton.

In the preliminaries the Squadron beat RSA Larkhill 32—2 and CAD Kineton 21—2 with an outstanding performance by **Pte Dawn Kernaghan**. In the semi finals we were drawn against 15 Ord Bn and, following a very physical match, ran out victorious 30—4 taking us through to the final against the strongly favoured AAC Centre. This was a fast, exciting match. Good offensive play, co-ordinated by **LCpl Louise Elliott**, and a tight defence paid off with the Squadron winning the championship with a convincing 30 points to 7 victory.

As part of the award ceremony, **LCpl Louise Elliott** was awarded the 'Most Valuable Player' Trophy.

Also representing the Squadron were **Ptes Tracy Kerry** and **Gill Wakerley**.

We had a convincing win in the UKLF Championship played at Aldershot on 24, 25 and 26 February (72 points to 26) and look forward to meeting the BAOR Champions in the Army final to be played on 25 March. A full report of the UKLF matches and the Army final match will be included in the May issue.

EXERCISE CARIBBEAN VENTURE

By Ptes Patricia Williams and **Susan Allsop**

In mid 1987 we both applied for and, to our surprise, were successful in being allocated vacancies on Ex Caribbean Venture, the Corps sailing expedition. All we then had to do was find the money.

With all administration completed, on the morning of 4 January we arrived at Gatwick, met up with the rest of the crew and after a short delay were aboard our 747 en route to Antigua via Canada (courtesy of the pilot) and Miami where we changed aircraft. After 15½ hours flying we were there. It was 2130 hrs local time, we stepped off the aircraft into an oven, were bundled into a taxi, and taken to the English Harbour where we were introduced to our boat *Firebird*. It clearly resembled a dinghy! What a shock, a 36ft racer with eight berths. (But there were nine of us). Next we were introduced to **Sgt Morgan**, our temporary skipper. Administration complete it was off to the local night spot for a drink and something to eat before retiring to the boat for some sleep, (and to make sure you weren't the one without a bunk).

The following day was a dry run with **Sgt Morgan** showing us the ropes. Due to the swell, there was little opportunity in the first week to complete any sailing. Any attempts we did make were cut short by gale force winds. However, on Tuesday of the second week we set sail for St Barthelemy, a French island. Having gone stern-to, (what marvellous technical jargon) the skipper cleared customs and we were allowed off. After a brief visit to the expensive pubs and cheap supermarkets we were off again to St Maartens, another eight hours sailing. Getting into the harbour was a bit tricky but well worth the patience. St Maartens was the nicest and cheapest island we visited. The few days we stayed was just too short. It was time to set sail again, back to St Barthelemy. This was an easier leg, due to calmer weather. Having resupplied we were on our way to St Kitts, not a prime tourist spot as we were to discover, and after three days we were happy to be heading back to Antigua and happy hour at the Gallery Bar. The remaining three days were spent cleaning *Firebird* with a free day thrown in and the final night celebrations for which we all suffered.

We arrived back at Gatwick on 27 January, said our farewells, and went our own ways. One could safely say a good time was had by all.

The Crew of *Firebird*
Standing (L to R): WO2 'Smike' Duffin, Maj John Russell, Sgt Steve Dale, Cfn Pete McArdle and Maj John Barrett (Skipper)
Sitting (L to R): Cpl Grant Hume, Ptes Trish Williams, Sue Allsop and Adam Petch

EXERCISE VIKING LOPE

Report by Pte Mandy Hamilton-Starr

Ex Viking Lope, at BOBC Norway, was designed to instruct and assist with initial training of six man novice nordic skiing teams to a standard where they can continue their training prior to the UKLF Nordic Ski Championships.

For those that have never langlaufed it is quite simply skiing cross-country in tracks that have been cut out of the snow by a special machine known in the trade as a 'piste beastie' and the idea is to ski or 'double phase' along these tracks sometimes uphill and sometimes down, occasionally stepping out to pass fellow skiers or let them pass you.

There were to be seven six man teams, 243 Sig Sqn being the only WRAC team taking part in the event. However we did take **Cpl 'Titch' Nichols** along to act as chaperone. Our team consisted of our leader, **Lt Sionnadh McLean, Cpl 'Titch' Nichols, Ptes 'Lizzy Lightning' Bunce, Jo Bunting, Mandy Pollock** and myself **Pte 'Hamster' Hamilton-Starr.**

The incredible journey (as it came to be known) was to start on 4 January travelling through England, Germany, Denmark and Norway by almost every conceivable form of transport until we reached Sjusjoen in southern Norway almost three days later. The Sjusjosen Fjellstue (Mountain Lodge) was to be our home for the next two weeks and what a home, 18km from the nearest town of Lillehammer it was a wonderful hotel set in the most beautiful Norwegian countryside. The food was very good but it did get monotonous after two weeks of fish and reindeer meat. The rooms were two berth with en suite bathroom facilities which had heated floors so it was a quick dance to the showers and back. Behind the hotel where we were going to ski everything was so white and quiet 'a place to forget all your troubles' we thought. How wrong can you be, ours were just about to start.

On arrival we were introduced to our instructor **Capt Andy Fisher APTC** who proved to be a hard but patient instructor. These virtues were to prove essential in his attempts to teach the required techniques to enable us to ski competently and safely in the tracks. We soon learned that a lot of snow would pass under the bridge before we were going to get close to becoming champions. However, we were not going to be defeated.

After being taught how to put on skis we learned the basic cross-country skiing techniques such as double phasing, double poling, double poling with a single leg kick and herring bone. We soon developed the theme by learning a few downhill techniques such as

Pte 'Hamster' Hamilton-Starr getting to grips with the delicate art of langlauf

The 'Posers in Norway'
L to R: Ptes Jo Bunting, Liz Bunce, Mandy Pollock, 'Hamster' Hamilton-Starr and Lt Sionnadh McLean

snow plough turns and stops, then we were off, in no great style and not without a few hitches. Some of the team members had obviously been practising on the quiet. **Pte Mandy Pollock** was well on her way with only one or two minor falls. **Pte Liz Bunce** also picked up the idea fairly quickly, however, **Pte Jo Bunting** developed the very unusual habit of falling over when she was stationary. **Lt McLean** got off to a good start too, slowly and surely was how she was going to play things, a ploy which worked quite well until the tracks went round the corner. **Cpl 'Tich' Nichols** had by this time progressed to a more advanced group and could often be seen speeding off into the distance. I, however, was speeding nowhere and could frequently be found sticking out of a snow drift with my legs waving in the air. The highlights of the course were some of the trips we did. We managed several 5km tours across the Nordsetter and on one occasion completed a 20km tour to Palestova.

The culmination of the course was a 5km race (which was in reality 8km). We were to race alongside the men and on the morning of the race we were given our bits and told to go. **Pte Mandy Pollock** came first in the ladies race with **Lt McLean** a close second. **Ptes Liz Bunce** and **Jo Bunting** came third and fourth respectively and me—I fell over on every corner and every bump and by the time I finished everyone had disappeared!

On the last night there was the usual prize-giving and end of course party followed by another incredible journey home. We eventually got back to camp on 21 January. It only remains to be said that Ex Viking Lope was a brilliant and worthwhile venture. Everybody in the group achieved bronze standard proficiency and although we had to work extremely hard it was very enjoyable. I would recommend this course to any future novice teams. I would also add that it is more beneficial if they have never skied before but have a fairly high standard of fitness (it adds to the entertainment value).

One big thank you to the organisers of the trip and to the isntructors in Norway. In particular **Capt Fisher** without whom we would not have had so much fun. Also to **Lt McLean** for organising us (and putting up with us) and here's hoping that Viking Lope continues so that we can all 'go on the piste again'.

SEA TRIALS OF RFA *SIR GALAHAD*

Report by LCpl Angie Murphy

On Saturday 23 January I and five others—**Cpl Lin Matthews, Ptes Jerry Lowe, Denise Ashby** and **LCpl Louise Elliott** took part in an exercise for approximately a day and a half on the RFA *Sir Galahad*.

We set off at 0730 hrs from Bulford in combats and webbing armed with suitcases full of goodies and home comforts, the journey to Portland Naval Base took about an hour and a half. Before we could get on board the ship we had to put on clean training shoes, as the ship's floors were highly polished and absolutely spotless, and they wanted them kept that way. We felt a bit silly trundling down the pier with all our soldier kit on and training shoes but were somewhat pleased we had changed our footwear when we saw the gang plank. It was awful! I think we had all expected steps or something equally convenient but what we got was an ordinary gang plank which of course is extremely steep and just has ridges to grip your feet onto. It was like one of those scenes out of an old Tarzan film when the great white hunters are trying to get across the rope bridge before it snaps and leaves them clinging on for dear life!

Once actually inside the ship, which was lovely and warm and surgically clean, we were shown to our accommodation. We were to stay in officers cabins, no less, they were luxurious and not at all what we had expected. There were four girls to a cabin, each had two sets of very comfortable bunk beds, bedside lamps, ample storage space, a writing table and chair and a toilet and shower en suite.

Having settled in we went to the junior ranks lounge to wait for information about an emergency procedures briefing we were to attend. We got acquainted with a few of our travelling companions who were permanent staff from the RCT, and RAC Junior Leaders Regts at Colerne and Bovington. Light refreshment obtained from the senior ranks bar turned this into quite a jolly occasion. Once we had eaten, and returned to the lounge to watch some television, we attended a briefing where we had the various ships alarms and emergency procedures explained. Then came an alarm which was to be a practice run for all on board. It involved us going back to our accommodation to don life jackets then making our way in an orderly fashion to previously designated muster stations (do not pass go—do not collect £200). Once at the muster stations we were counted, then told we had done well and generally to do likewise for future alarms. Our muster station was the seniors dining room which was all set for dinner with huge bowls of fruit as centre pieces on the tables—these were half empty when we left. By this time we had all been told that the trip to duty free France, we had all so eagerly volunteered for days earlier, was definitely cancelled. We were a bit put out at first but were then told that the supply on board of duty free beer was more or less unlimited so our disappointment was short lived. The bad weather conditions were considered too severe to sail and there was some talk about a malfunction in the computer for the main engine so it was decided that we would definitely not leave port but would continue with the exercise on board.

The food on board was good. Although it was a set menu the food was well cooked and hot. Having no access to shops etc even the fussiest persons got used to ships cooking. Mealtimes were a crushed, crowded affair with some 300 junior leaders and their staff on board. They staggered the sittings, removing people from the dining area as soon as their last mouthful had been swallowed. Being ladies, though, we were called to the first sitting, front of the queue each time. There were various guard and cleaning duties being detailed but again we were spoilt and exempted from these, they did however request two WRAC to help in the juniors/seniors dining halls each mealtime. It was no hardship, we just had to help dish up the scoff, the juniors got the dirty work. We were also told we needn't attend any more alarms, they were just for the juniors from now on. We were quite relieved because the juniors were well put through their paces. They had to do emergency drills in darkness in which cases they had to crawl along the gangways, following green direction arrows, situated just above floor height on all the walls. On one of these night drills they used smoke cannisters to simulate fire conditions.

By mid evening some of us were feeling a bit confined and got permission to go ashore. We were able to visit one or two of Portland's favourite spots. Two of our ladies deeply regretted their trip ashore when faced with dishing up the breakfast the next morning.

After breakfast we cleared from our rooms and all had to assemble on the tank deck to await details of our various transports home. This would have been a very boring time but for **Cpl Matthews** ghetto blaster which filled the whole deck with boogie funky stuff. **LCpl Elliott** then proceeded to take a keen but clumsy element of the junior leaders for an aerobics session which was almost as funny as the tug-of-war competition that followed—our WRAC team cheated like mad, and of course won!

Just before lunch our transport arrived and sadly we had to say our goodbyes, we had met some lovely people. In all it was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend and we can hardly wait to volunteer for the next one when hopefully we may go further than Portland.

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF 244 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AIR SUPPORT)
by Sig Rutherford

I left AAC Harrogate on 31 July 1987 and after two weeks leave I arrived in 244 Sig Sqn. Being my first working unit and finding myself surrounded by RAF, everything was a bit strange at first. However it did not take long to get to know the lads in Bravo Tp and they introduced me to life in a working unit.

Bravo Troop's role is UKMF Air Support Communications and it took me some time to learn all the circuit abbreviations. I am at present a member of a three man detachment working on the Teleprinter Tasking Circuit (TTC) which is an HF RATT Link, tasking support helicopters. The Troop also uses VHF and UHF equipment and I will have the opportunity to gain experience on this equipment during my three year tour here.

Although we are an independent squadron, we form part of the RAF Tactical Communications Wing (TCW) and sometimes we deploy into the field alongside the RAF Communicators. Working with the RAF does have its advantages, in that we do get the opportunity to go on exercise in exotic locations such as the Cayman Islands (last year) and this year, Malaysia and Thailand. The Troop exercises in Norway, Denmark and Germany each year and we were fortunate enough to spend a month in Cyprus last year.

I have found my first six months in a working unit challenging and very demanding but at the same time it has been very enjoyable and I look forward to the next 2½ years.

Sig Rutherford 'Where's the carb on this here diesel truck'?

Sig Rutherford 'Not really asleep'

PURPLE WARRIOR

The UKMF contingent of 244 Sig Sqn provided Air Support Communications for Orange and Blue Forces on Exercise Purple Warrior.

The Orange detachments, deployed on Friday 30 October, only a day after the Squadron's return from Exercise Lion Sun in Cyprus. On the road move north, there was a compulsory six hour stop at Halton, where a well organised team supplied POL, beds and food. The food was excellent and all the men ate as much as possible in their short stay there. With batteries re-charged and feeling refreshed they continued on their way north. On arrival at West Freugh the tented camp was not complete so arrangements were made to sleep in the large hangar that housed most of the communications complex. We quickly realised that our suntans would not last long in the rain and windswept conditions of West Scotland.

The following day, with the tented camp now complete, we moved out of the nice warm hangar into cold 160 pounders. This decision was taken without consideration of the Stranraer weather and after a number of tents were blown down it was back to the hangar for another night.

Once comms had been established and tested there was little to do until the staff came out, so a couple of helicopter rides were arranged for **Sig (Mick) Rutherford** and **LCpl (Seth) Eccles**. **LCpl Eccles** fancied himself in his orange survival suit, so much so, that anyone who didn't know him thought he was one of them!

The rest of the Squadron went up by sea. Two detachments went on the *Dana Regina*. These were led by **Sgt (Glen) Sutherland** who had to 'bodge' his accelerator linkage with R4 copper wire and para cord, after it snapped. **Sig (Kev) Swallow** was the brains behind the idea and is now making up an exercise spares kit with used toilet rolls and sticky backed plastic. After the four days trip to Stranraer they exchanged the luxurious *Dana Regina* for the basics of the LSL *Sir Geraint* for their last leg over to Kintyre to join the exercise.

The remaining four detachments travelled up on the *Dana Regina*. Everyone indulged in the soldier's ancient pastimes of sleeping, nomination and more sleep. PT was carried out on the car decks, but showers were very cold and there wasn't much water due to water rationing.

The final off loading was carried out at night and after two attempts at landing the Mexifloats, everybody reached West Freugh safely. After an excellent meal and a night's sleep the Rebros were deployed. One went with the 'Boot Necks' to Kintyre and the other three were put on the hills around the area.

LCpl (Geoff) Richards with his UHF/VHF Rebro trailer was co-located with an RAF Radar site, he had the best location of the three as he was able to trade compo for fresh rations with the RAF Cooks.

The two remaining crews led by **Cpl (Bob) Porter** and **Cpl (Al) Chapman** didn't have it so easy. **Cpl Porter** accompanied by **Sig (Steve) Bowman** and **(Simon) Sweatman** had a very boggy location just north of Stranraer. **Cpl Chapman, Sig (Strasse) Street** and **(DC) Lee** were sharing a hilltop with 5 Bde, 1 Bde and Ghurka Rebros. After the first very windy night **Cpl Chapman**'s Rebro was attacked no less than four times by patrols of Ghurkas and Royal Marine Commandos. As a final resort they tied white mine tape to the camnet, and although they didn't get attacked they continued to get regular visits from the passing patrols. After a cup of tea and bacon sandwich the patrol went on their way informing their HQ by radio that they had just left 'bacon butty'. All the comms were good for the duration of the exercise with no major problems.

The move back was by ship for most at 244 with a small element travelling by road, and apart from the weather, it had proved to be an interesting and enjoyable exercise.

EXERCISE TACOMMEX 11/87

Bravo Troop and members of Tactical Communications Wing (TCW) RAF, departed from RAF Brize Norton on 30 November 1987 on Ex Tacommex 11/87 heading for Harwich, from where we would catch the ferry for Denmark. After a two hour wait we set sail for the Danish port of Esjberg. The North Sea crossing was uneventful, the food was good and there was plenty of entertainment in the ferry's bars, cinemas and in the disco.

We arrived in Denmark early in the afternoon. We then had a hard eight hour drive to Zealand, via the Island of Odennse and a second ferry crossing. All went well until we tried to find the ferry terminal from Odennse to Zealand. At this point convoy packets were seen to be going in all directions, but eventually we all caught the ferry to Zealand.

The following day the exercise started and the comheads were dispatched to their separate exercise locations. The exercise itself was in two phases, the first being a normal communications exercise where the troops were practised in convoy and movement drills, setting up the comheads and communications with the RAF detachments.

The second phase of the exercise was of 24 hour duration to test the JNCOs within the troop in an appointment role. It was also to test the passage of information in a command formation. During this phase of the exercise the SNCOs were conducting an exercise on foot, going from base locations into the exercise area and collecting information, then passing that information back to the Brigade HQ via the chain of command. The whole of this phase of the exercise was directed and controlled by the JNCOs, each from different locations in assumed appointments. Once the SNCOs had gathered the information it would be passed back to their individual Company HQs who in turn would pass the information back to the Battalion HQs who would then pass the information back to Brigade HQ. After all the information was gathered, Brigade would then issue further orders and the Battalion Commanders would then retask the SNCOs via the Company Commanders.

The exercise went well and the JNCOs found out that it was not that easy to get the information and reactions they required at all times, even with well written exercise plans.

After the second phase of the exercise finished, the troop was given the afternoon off. Some members managed to visit Copenhagen. The following day we departed from Zealand and arrived in Brize Norton just in time for the Squadron Cross Country Competition.

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

SHQ NOTES

The Squadron has said a number of farewells since our last notes. In September we lost our civilian traffic officer **Mr Peter Egan**, who took up a new post in 239 Sig Sqn Colchester. More recently we bade farewell at a Squadron Dinner Party to **Maj Don Freeston**, who will soon be enjoying life in civvy street, **2Lt Tina Taylor** who is posted to 4 Fd Regt RA as Assistant Adjudant by way of an Au Pair exchange to Sweden and **Sgt Barry Dawson** who is taking up a new career having completed 23 years service. We wish them all well in their new posts and careers. We welcome **Lt Val Macmaster** from 1 Gordons and a host of other new faces and hope their stay will be enjoyable.

VISIT OF THE SOINC (A)

The SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** visited the Squadron on 10 December. Following a whistle-stop tour of SHQ, Aldershot Commcen and Military Exchange the SOinC joined SHQ staff for lunch in the Duchess of Kent barracks.

During lunch he presented the LS&GC medal to **WO2 (SSM) Sheila Poklekowski WRAC**. The SSM was accompanied by her parents **Mr** and **Mrs William Murray**. **Mr Murray** impressed us all by turning up resplendent in his tartan kilt.

VISIT OF DWRAC

On 3 February the DWRAC **Brig S. P. Nield ADC** visited the Squadron as part of a tour of WRAC personnel in Aldershot units. The visit was followed by a buffet lunch held in the Sergeants' Mess, Duchess of Kent Barracks.

EXERCISE PURPLE WARRIOR 1987

Ex Purple Warrior was covered in some depth by the media but for one of our WRAC soldiers it certainly was a new experience. **Pte Shona Ross** takes up the story.

I arrived at Stranraer station along with four other WRAC, to begin, what would be the first step in the chain of events, that were to last 24 hours.

Our first destination was 'location one'. There we were given new identities. No longer were we five WRAC, instead we became civilian evacuees. The other evacuees involved were wives and children of all ages, belonging to military personnel. The purpose of our being there was to practise the evacuation of civilians from a war zone, to a safety area.

To get to our next destination, I and the four other WRAC were flown out in a Chinook helicopter, the remainder were taken by road. At the second location we were all questioned to verify our identities. Then the civilians were taken to their accommodation for the night. They were fortunate enough to stay at local Bed and Breakfast establishments. We five WRAC were not so lucky. After some confusion we were eventually given a tent and camp beds and spent the night in a field!

The next morning we were informed that the evacuation had all gone as planned and our roles in the exercise were over. Therefore we five WRAC were taken to an airfield where a Hercules was waiting to return us to England.

We may not have been involved with Ex Purple Warrior long; but during the 24 hours we had seen Scotland and flown in two different aircraft; our only complaint was that it had ended too soon!

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

SHQ
A REPORT BY JINTY AND LARRAINE

Hi—We are the part-time OC, 2IC, SSM, YofS, FofS and SLJS (silly little jobs Sergeant), our talents are many taking in coffee making, telephone answering service, office cleaners, running around for Bacon Butties and last, but not least, our own positions, FSO's Clerk and Squadron Typist. We don't mind standing in on any of these positions but can we please have a wage commensurate with all the rates of pay? (Note from SLJS—You'd get a reduction on mine!).

These positions are, it seems to us, open to us at least once a day, whilst they undertake such serious tasks as Hockey, Shooting, Golfing, Windsurfing, Pantomimes, Childrens plays and—Oh—another really exacting task—bending the right elbow at the new Squadron Function Room (very swish too!), Officers' Mess and MP Lounge.

Larraine and I are really quite adept these days at running the Squadron and feel sure that if called upon to give a Brief on it we could hire ourselves out—at reasonable rates of course!

This is not to say we are complaining—who could accuse us of that when you consider the opportunities open to our advancement in the future?—at present Signal Squadron UNFICYP, next year HQ UN New York!

It has come to our attention from the last Wire Notes that although written by SLJS **Howard Ripley**, he wasn't actually mentioned—so here goes . . . **Howard** is what most people try to avoid being—a Yorkshireman. **Larraine** and I have come to suspect that his pockets are somewhat deeper than average. This is not to imply that **Howard** is thrifty, what we mean is tight, particularly when involving the Stationery Cupboard . . . it is well known in the Squadron that things must be signed for in blood—amount dependant upon items requested. There are also two otherwise extinct species of Moth known to be trapped in the said cupboard.

And so, **Howard** has his mention, we have had our say, and now . . . on to someone else . . .

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO2 (YofS) Nick Hammett**
Commcen Sgt	**Sgt Dave Hartshorne**
Day Cpl	**Cpl Steve Everett**
DSO A Shift	**Cpl John Bridges**
DSO B Shift	**Cpl 'Meech' Meachin**
DSO C Shift	**Cpl A. Marlow**

Scene: Commcen Nicosia at 0840 hrs on Tuesday 29 December 1987.

Enter **Sgt Dave Hartshorne 'Cpl Bridges**, message from the SSM; if you want your leave next month he wants some Wire Notes for the Troop'.

Cpl John Bridges '£££%%%%%''''((()))= = + + +' (Greek for thank you very much Sir).

So, here we go, first of all . . .

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals: **LCpl 'Max' Boyce, Sig 'Taff' Owen, 'Dick' Barton, Mick Howard, John (ESP) Harding** and **Craig Bird.**

Departures: **LCpl 'Jack' Ginty, Sig 'Stan the Man' Stanwick, Dave Cox, 'Shaggy' Shahi, 'Si' Jones, 'Warty' Ward** and **Charlie Etienne.**

We wish all arrivals a happy and fulfilling tour, and all departures good luck and Bon Voyage.

SOCIAL/SPORTING EVENTS

This last month has seen a busier than usual sporting and social scene within the Troop. First we had a Troop function with a difference—we went ten pin bowling . . .

The evening began at 1730 hrs, with a bowling competition over two frames, finished at 2000 hrs with a result of: 1st **Cpl 'Meech' Meachin**, 2nd **Sgt Dave Hartshorne**, 3rd **WO2 (YofS) Nick Hammett**. Booby **Sig 'Taff' Owen** (never mind **Dave** you can choose the next sport) . . . We then adjourned to the Squadron Club, The Wire Inn, for a curry supper a few pints of Milk of Amnesia, and more Bar Games. The next event was on Boxing Day, the YofS and his wife **Sue**, invited the whole Troop round to their house for a few drinks and party games, the Trivial Pursuit was a great success. We were then treated to a buffet meal followed by more games, the 'evening' finished in the early hours of the 27th. The Troop thank the YofS and **Sue** and Sgt **H** and **Carolina** for providing beer and food for the occasion.

Our final event was on the 28th (note the day's gap for recuperation) which was a game of Hockey against Radio Tp, which resulted in a draw; unfortunately for us Radio Tp won the crate of beer 2—1 on penalties. We then adjourned to the Wire Inn for a de-brief party.

Work—not a lot has been happening on the work front, but rest assured that we have been turning up for shift.

And finally in closing so I don't get 'you never mentioned me in *The Wire*' here we go A Shift—**LCpl 'Max' Boyce, Sig Lee Turner, Dan Burdus, John Harding** and **Dave Owen**. B Shift—**LCpl Steve Gill, Sig Jock Beaton, Phil Hewish, 'Dick' Barton** and **Craig Bird** and last but not least, C Shift—**LCpl Bob Graham, Sig Andy Major, 'Geordie' McKnight, Pete Messenger** and **Mick Howard**.

We now look forward to 1988, hoping it will be as eventful and fulfilling as 1987 has been.

TECH AND LINE TROOP

With the approach of Christmas and the New Year the Troop was looking forward to a pleasant few days off over the Festive Period, however, as past members of the Troop will be aware, that was just wishful thinking on our behalf.

Lo and behold, shock and horror, the Cable Video Television System decided once again to die in time for Christmas. And so, with anguished cries of 'Oh No' from the Troop, and complaints flooding in, **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie** and his intrepid gang of 'video nasty repair men' set out to do their utmost to get the system working again and provide cartoons and Christmas programmes for all, in time for Christmas Day. They worked from first until last light, virtually rewiring the whole system and fitting in the normal routine of maintaining Sector Trunk communications and the UNPA Telephone system. For the most part it was achieved, with the FofS seen wandering through the minefield on Christmas Eve checking the cable, only to be stopped by an Infantry Officer with the remark 'Has a path been cleared through here yet?'.

In between the 'odd job' however, the Troop did manage to get some socialising in, with a couple of do's in local Tavernas, the Squadron Club and for the singles, the 'occasional' visit to the high class cabarets which it is rumoured were led by **Cpl Rob 'Ambassador' Bray**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Recently we have said goodbye to the following Troop members, **LCpl Dave Giles**, back to 262, **Sig Mick Lawlor**, back to 259, **Sgt Ray Edge** and **LCpl Daz Bailey** back to 30 Sig Regt and **Sgt Steve Dobson**, and **Pat** and family to 21 Sig Regt and RAF Bruggen. Best wishes to all.

We would like to welcome **Sgt Stan Holden** and **Audrey** from School of Signals, **LCpls Steve 'Bt' Barclay** and **Wayne Pinhorn** from 30 Sig Regt and **Sig JB 'Back again' Bower** and **Jimmy Watson**. Hope you all enjoy your tour with the UN.

And finally, to all past members of the Troop, may you all have a healthy and prosperous 1988.

RADIO TROOP
by Lt R. K. Ferguson

The Squadron now has its own Club! The beginning of December also marked the opening of the 'Wire Inn', the Squadrons new club located next to the old Nicosia International Airport.

Although planning had been going on for nearly a year, actual construction of the facility began only three months before the opening date. The building used was a run down storage/office building near the Radio Tp lines. The outside was cleaned up and painted and the roof repaired. Inside, the place was literally gutted and built from scratch. Many long hours were put into the work. At first there seemed to be a lot of activity but not much being achieved. This was not the case. The place had to be cleaned out, walls refinished and holes drilled. Once the paint and plaster dried, the club took on a beauty of its own, crafted by the very people who were going to use it.

In charge of the construction crew was **SSgt Brian Launder**. It was his job to ensure that the Club was finished on time. He did not let anyone down. When it opened, it was a place for everyone to be proud of. 'We now have a home' one of the young Signalmen said, 'a place we can call our own'.

In other Radio Tp news, dreams of a white Christmas filled the thoughts of some who returned home in early December, their tour of duty with the UN finished. We would like to say farewell to the following people: **MCpl Claude Banville, MCpl Dale Drohan** and **LCpl Winston White**. We wish them the best in the future.

Radio Tp would also like to welcome the new members: **MCpl Daniel Grenier, LCpl Danny Millan, Sig 'Geordie' Lunn, Sig Scott Slater** and **Sig Graham Moakes.**

Finally, Radio Tp would like to wish everyone all the best in 1988. May you and your loved ones have a safe and happy year.

CO Support Regt, Lt Col C. McA Pyman SDG declares the 'Wire Inn' officially open as Cpl Rogerson looks on ready to dash in for refreshment.

The OC, Maj Ruairidh Rutherford pulls the first pint in the 'Wire Inn'

GUNFIRE

Christmas morning, 0800 hrs—Unknown Signalman to 2IC:-

'Why do we have Gunfire Sir?'

'Because it's Traditional Lad'

'Oh' replies the Signalman, 'Why is it called Gunfire Sir?'

'The Sarn't Major will tell you that', Says the 2IC moving off with just a trace of Ho Ho Ho.

'Why do they call it Gunfire then Sir?'

SSM ponders whilst looking around, 'Well **McKevitt**' (for it is he) 'you remember that normally if I visited your room in this condition . . .'

Mac interrupts, 'You mean when you're .....?'

SSM patiently, 'No, I mean the condition of your room—not me—it usually results in you volunteering for community services'.

McKevitt 'Er, Yes Sir'.

SSM looks around again 'Well as we don't like to see you detailed for Fat.. Er—volunteering for community services during the Festive Season we attribute the state of the rooms to the severe shelling which was obviously caused by enemy gunfire and not your lack of endeavour as is the norm'.

McKevitt looking confused, yet relieved 'I think I see Sir'.

SSM, looking tired and emotional 'Merry Christmas **McKevitt**'.

And so, Gunfire progressed with the OC Sqn **Maj Ruairidh Rutherford**, 2IC **Capt Charlie Manning, WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton, WO2 (YofS) Nick Hammett** (who was apparently posted in for Christmas as he is just the right size to fit down the chimney), **SSgt Brian Lauder, Sgt Dave Hartshorne** and **Sgt Graeme Hossell** all descending on those living in personnel unfortunate enough to leave their rooms open. Some soldiers were actually opening their Christmas presents when visited and **Cpl 'Meach' Meachin** proudly displayed his toys and would not let anyone else play with them!

SPORT AND SOCIAL
LIVE WIRES

After an enforced absence, the Squadron Bowling team was allocated a place in the United Nations Bowling League during June 1987; the first obstacle was over. The second obstacle remained, who would be willing to bowl every Tuesday until December? Well, without actually telling the whole truth, six members of the Squadron were coerced into taking part.

The team consisted of: **Sgt Dave Hartshorne**, Team Captain, the one that had to prise out the bowling fees each week. **Capt Charlie Manning**, who didn't mind which team he played against as long as it wasn't the women. **WO1 Bob Waller**, who found that he could bowl better with glasses on. In fact the first time he wore his glasses he won a trophy for first place in the Triplex Competition. **SSgt Brian Launder**, who, never having bowled before, improved throughout the season and improved his average every week. **Sgt Derek Bright**, who bowled consistently throughout the season and came out on top with the highest average. **Sgt Howard Ripley**, who gained most as an individual. He took a trophy for third place in the Triplex Competition and also won a nice Chess Set in the Fun Bowl for the highest score.

For a team that was compiled from six unknowns, who just went out to enjoy themselves, we suddenly found ourselves at the top of the League midway through the season. Unfortunately, we stopped drinking and took things seriously at this stage, only to find our position drop slightly. The command decision was taken to adopt the beginning of season approach to our bowling and go out and enjoy ourselves. This proved to be our success, but unfortunately we missed the trophy positions by one place. A very creditable fourth position was earned, only five points actually separating us from first place. This left the rest of the League with a taste of what to expect in the future. From January, we will be out, with confidence, to improve our position.

Live Wires Bowling Team
L to R: Sgt Dave Hartshorne (Team Captain), Capt Charlie Manning and Sgt Howard Ripley
Kneeling: SSgt Dave Lauder and Sgt Derek Bright
Absent: WO1 (YofS) Bob Waller (gone to practise bowling grenades)

SHOOTING

The Squadron Shooting Team did well in the Regimental Competition held on 17 December at Dhekelia Ranges, coming second in the SLR, and SMG and a very close third (five more points and they would have won it) in the pistol. With all the scores totalled up they came second place, it only remained to win the Falling Plate to make amends, so to ensure we had a good chance, we entered two teams. The 'A' Team was the four SLR firers captained by the SSM, which knocked down 9 of the 10 plates in the fastest time of the day with the 10th plate remaining up due to it being unfortunately knocked through 90 degrees, which let our opposition coast through in slow time as winners.

The 'B' Team was captained by the 2IC (I've retired) **Capt Charlie Manning** with **Sgt Graeme Hossell, LCpl Danny Millan** and **Sig Dave Burneau** (Canadian Signals) and considering that one shot had an unzeroed weapon, gave an excellent performance and made their way into the semi finals only to be narrowly beaten by the eventual winners.

It remained a good day with all Squadron competitors gaining at least one medal, some two, and **Sgt Graeme Hossell** three as he managed to gain second individual place in the SMG Shoot.

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Danny McConnell**
2IC	**Capt Peter Cain**
CC	**SSgt Clyde Atherley**
Trg SNCO	**SSgt Les Allen**
ORC	**Cpl Ken Richards**

December was, as always, slightly less busy than the previous months. The main events during the month being the various Squadron parties. In between the social events, the Chief Clerk and the Training SNCO were selected as part of the Squadron team in the annual Island Military skills competition which was held on 18 December.

During December BFBS advertised a One-Hour Programme slot for Christmas Day to the highest bidder. 259 Sig Sqn raised the most money and our photograph shows the OC **Maj Danny McConnell** presenting the £200 cheque for 'Wireless for the Blind' to **Mr Steve Britton** of BFBS. In the background are the two DJs for the day **Cpl 'Fergie' Rae** and **Sig 'Cobber' Howe.**

HQ TROOP

Once Ex Venus Rock was over for another year, December turned out to be a fairly quiet month with the usual round of Christmas functions.

Cpl Stan Staniford spent the month attached to 22 Sig Regt's Ski Team in Kaprun, Austria practising his posing technique.

The Troop was sad to say goodbye to **Sig Mick Howard** and **Ed Roberts** on postings to 3 Armd Div and 30 Sig Regt respectively, but congratulate them on their promotions. Unfortunately, they are not being replaced. We also said goodbye to **Sig Kenny Marshall** and **Jenny** on posting to 8 Inf Bde.

On the other hand we welcome **Cpl 'Chalkie' White** and his wife **Sarah** from 1 Armd Div, also **LCpl 'Gaz' Cuss** from 33 Sig Regt (V).

Congratulations go to **Cpl 'Rich' Cressey** and **LCpl 'Fish' Fisher** on their recent promotions.

Now the RTg Section is trying to get as much time as possible on Skis before all the snow melts. There is no truth in the rumour that they are taking up all the Squadron's Milski places.

EPISKOPI TROOP

INTERNATIONAL (KENSINGTON) RESCUE

It was approximately 0900 hrs on 14 December when **LCpl 'Bleep' Reith** received a call on the emergency phone in Line Systems. A story of disaster and panic was relayed and his face turned white as the full horror of the situation became clear. Some PSA contractors had cut three 50 pair cables supplying residential telephones in the Kensington Quarter Area and the Officers' Mess.

This was a job for **Sgt 'San' Coster** and International Rescue. Instantly, telemechs were recalled from the far corners of the Garrison to commence the repair. With four teams of two jointing through the morning (I might add that **Cpl Steve Kemble** actually missed his NAAFI break for the cause) things were soon to be back to normal.

Even **Lt 'Nightrider' Coldrey** sprang into action, and produced a letter explaining why the outrage had occurred. However, he should have had more faith in the lads, who had already completed the work before the letters could be completed.

So, yet again the residents of Episkopi Garrison were able to sleep soundly in there beds with the comforting knowledge that they could be called out on duty at a moment's notice. So here, for posterity, I record the names of those involved:-

Cpls Jeff Wood, 'Jizzer' Gorman, 'Scouse' Creighton, 'Taff' Morgan, Steve Kemble, LCpl 'Baz' Bazzard, Sig Steve Lewis and **Billy Wareham.**

WO2 (FofS) George Blythe *(right)* oversees the work

Sig Steve Lewis earning the extra money for his B2

AIRFIELD TROOP

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Balding**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Allen**
Project Sgt	**Sgt Fitzpatrick**
Internal Maint Sgt	**Sgt Nicolas**
SNCO IC Exchange	**Sgt Renshaw**

Christmas celebrations were organised by **Sgt Neil McKie** and his Section. The Christmas 'do' was also a warm up 'Gozome' for the Troop OC, **Capt Les Budworth.** He is off to the land of the green wellies (Shetland). Best wishes to him and **Di.**

The troop welcomes the new troop OC, **Lt Balding,** and **Helen** and the family into the team.

Now, about 'Work'. Winter has certainly brought the rains, floods, snow and an abundance of Cable faults. The troop has certainly been grafting and a 24 hour working day is not uncommon in Akrotiri. A familiar sight, are members in bin liners and wellies, (designer wear by **'Taff' Duncan**), trudging around the station. If the rain continues much longer, we shall suggest that **Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick** and **Cpl Eddie Pluskota** run an under water jointing course to enable work to be carried on in the deluged cable pits.

SPORT

To date we are fourth overall in the Station Commander's Cup Competition with another three events to be competed for.

WELCOMES, FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

The Troop has also recently said farewell to **Cpl Peter Cunningham, Wendy** and family, **LCpl Dexter David** and **Birgit** and to **Sig 'Jake' Jacob** and family. We wish them all the best in their new postings.

Our new arrivals are **LCpl Danny Boland** and **Clair** from the Mountain, **Sig Cree** and **Sig Kenny McQueen, Andrea** and family.

Congratulations to **LCpl Joe McGinness** and **Elaine** on their recent engagement.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

Another couple of months has slipped by with the Squadron enduring that treacherous Cyprus winter weather. Honestly, it's been so cold with the temperature dropping right down to 60°C. It's a hard life for some! But fortunately we've managed to pull through and the sun is out again. It's a good job we had the skiing to keep us going.

Speaking of which, the OC, **Maj Nigel Cory** has very recently passed his Military Ski Instructor's course after spending a fortnight in Troodos learning how it should be done. Members of the Squadron can now be seen traipsing off up the 'pistes' for some personal tuition by him in the hope that the 262 Sig Sqn team will do well in the NEFSKI championships which take place at the end of February.

CLFC Brig Myrtle says farewell to the Squadron

Who's a pretty boy then? Mean, moody, magnificent Maj Nigel Cory and the SSM, WO2 Dave Thomas who is trying to hide the bald patch

12 SU WALKDOWN

The 13 December saw some unlucky people attempting the 12 SU Walkdown. This little 'jaunt' takes place over approximately 18 miles of rough terrain and, although the start was at about 5,200ft and the finish at sea level, no one pointed out that there were loads of hills to climb in between.

Some of the competition rules were that the team (of three) had to consist of one female, and one novice, so for weeks beforehand there was much cajoling from the fitness fanatics to try and get the WRAC to participate. Those unfortunate enough to succumb to the pressures included the AO **Lt Jan McKee, Sgt Sharon Ley** and **Cpl Gail Russell,** and what a nice day out they had. **Sgt Ley** and her team mates, **Capt (TOT) Colin Bachelor** and **Cpl 'Taff' Francis** decided to take it nice and easy and completed the course in a steady seven hours (ish).

The enthusiastic but 'spatially disorientated' team, consisting of **Lt Jan McKee, WO2 (SSM) Dave Thomas** and **LCpl Mel McCorry** had a good attempt but, unfortunately, bowed to the superior wisdom of the SSM and got lost on the the last checkpoint! With the finish point in their sights at last, five hours after the start, three Griffin vultures circled overhead and swooped gently down, waiting for their opportunity. Sensitive little creatures, aren't they?! How did they know how the team felt?

But the Squadron champs came in, in a time of just over four hours and haven't let the rest of us forget it yet. They were **Cpl Trev 'Richard Gere' Cotter, Cpl Gail Russell** and **LCpl Bob MacKie.** Well done.

Another sporting challenge was thrown up this month, but this time to the Wives Club. Someone, who shall remain nameless, thought it would be a good idea if the wives had a bash at the assault course. Well they would, wouldn't they? Never daunted, on a fine, windy, Sunday morning 14 intrepid wives took up the challenge with AIPT

LCpl McCorry there to 'demonstrate the movement'! Spurred on by the OC; **Lt Jan McKee, Cpl Jo McBroom** and **Ptes Jackie McCorry** and **Lyn Corns** were there to lend moral support and get wet as well! The prize for the hardest trier of the day went to **Sue Rickwood** for a brave effort in overcoming her fear of heights to throw herself over the scramble net and show her prowess on the catwalk! Friendly rivalry brewing, the culmination of the morning's practice was a race, WRAC v Wives. The Wives Club line up of **Jenny Thomas, Phyllis Jackson, Shirley Ashley** and **Jackie Davies** set out to do their best, but were just pipped at the post by a bedraggled WRAC team. Well done to all those who took part, and a special 'hope your ankle heals soon' to **Mrs Carol Tait**!

NEW YEAR'S EVE FOOTBALL MATCH
A report by Sgt 'Larry the Lamb' Dale

31 December (seemed a good day to have a New Year's Eve Football Match) saw the annual football match between the lads and lasses of the Squadron. In traditional style the roles were reversed and the lasses wore the trousers for once in the form of the Squadron's one and only football/hockey/volleyball strip (donations gladly received) and the lads wore the latest Napa styles.

The wives had high hopes for the contest, I am now led to believe many had spoken a few words of wisdom to their spouses the night before.

Right from the start the lads knew the tactics of the fairer sex. It was intimidation, determination and above all a twisted rule here and there.

After the first five minutes us lads knew exactly where we stood, we were 3—0 down. Their initial advance was just too much to defend against, mainly due to the efforts of **Jenny Thomas** and **Shirley Ashley** playing a stormer up front. Also, the fact that our ace goalkeeper **Cpl Dave Giles** was helping to reduce the half time dutch courage to a manageable level for the other 21 of us, didn't help at all.

This onslaught carried on with all of us hoping they would run out of energy soon. They did so later and by half time it was a draw, 5—1.

Five minutes into the second half the ladies were found to have 15 players but we didn't mind as we were winning 2—6! The battle raged until the final whistle with the outcome being 9—8 to the ladies. The only thing left to do was to retire to the Bitsa Club for a few wets and to present the ladies team with their trophy.

Thanks go to **Sgt Stan Matthews** and **Sue Hardy** for the organisation of the event as a very good day was had by all.

The victorious wives team

MAINT TP

RADIO RELAY
The front line by SSgt Pete Fitzmaurice

The curtain opens—**WO2 (FofS) Pete White**'s office.

Ma'am—Foreman! I need some wire notes from your section, can you organise?

FofS—Of course ma'am, I'll get the heads of shed's to draft something, when do you want it?

Ma'am (Smiling)—Oh! anytime in the next half hour will do.

FofS—**Staff Snape**!

So cheers **Roy** for requesting my sections notes.

How to start seemed to be the problem. Enter our **Russ (Sgt Dale** to the boys) 'Do it this way.' So having taken his advice, well nearly, here are the personalities of the section.

PERSONALITIES

NCO i/c Section	**Sgt Pete 'Exported to 9' Fitzmaurice**
(designate)	**Sgt Russ 'do it this way' Dale**
Members	**Sgt Pete 'Pele' Lowe**
	Sgt Nick 'Flyboy' Shaw
	Sgt Dave 'Nigel Mansell' Thomas

And last but not least **Cpl Lee 'Jiff' Thompson** our own tame T2. Who says that the rank structure doesn't work?

After Christmas, we bade farewell to **Sgt Martin 'RS 2000' Davies** and **Neil 'Knocker' Hardy** to the School of Signals and 21 Sig Regt respectively.

TELE MECH SECTION
by FofS Pete White

Cpl Mark Bullivant and **LCpl Dave Giles** have found their own private swimming pool in a cable pit. Not to be outdone by the weather we have the contractors to contend with and **SSgt Dave Belshaw** is still looking for the phantom axeman and spiker.

We welcome to our Section **Sig 'Bolts' Bolton** from Catterick and say a fond farewell to **LCpl Colin Usher** to 233 Sig Sqn and to **Sig Al Richie**, his wife **Carmen** and family to 632 Support Tp on a well deserved promotion.

TE SECTION
by Cpl 'Gaz' Hewings

With the New year, the section returned to routine work. The departure of **Cpl Mick 'Kebab' Keeble** and his wife **Sue** to 28 Sig Regt has left a gap, but everyone has rallied round.

Between swotting for the Foremans or should it now be called Forepersons, Entrance Examination **Sgt Martin Jackson** and **WSgt Sharon Ley** were heard to be muttering about the long awaited Electronic Exchange as our Strowger went into death throes again.

Sgt Phil Tait and **Cpl 'Gaz' Hewings** have just completed a mammoth rewiring task and much to their surprise it's all in and working.

Meanwhile in the Commcen **Sgt Toni Jackson** plotted his escape to 2 Inf Div.

The Commcen has now been converted to Trend. Alas poor T100R; we knew you well. **Toni** and **Phil** are now trying to rid us of the T12A multiplexer. What will they get up to next?

RADIO WORKSHOPS

The New Year saw one old hand, **Sgt Mick Dighton** leaving for indoctrination as a trainee foreman and the arrival of an even older pair of hands attached to **Sgt Tim Wynn.**

The remaining slave **Cpl Donny Robertson** is joined by **Cpl Nick 'Flanny' Flanighan** who is seeking sanctuary from the other end of the island, and his arrival brings the Radio Repair Section up to full strength . . . three men, not counting the two REME Techs who really own the workshop, **SSgt Graham Wright** and **Sgt Jim Davis**. (We only mention them in case they don't get a mention in 'The Craftsman').

We all wish **Mick** and his wife **Ute** every happiness in Blandford and if you get a free moment you might write and tell us what we do with all the obsolete connectors that you demanded before you left?

HELLOS, GOODBYES, CONGRATS

We take this opportunity to welcome even more new members to the Squadron, **Cpls Sally Oldridge, Gary Kirk, Tony Sparks** and **Pte Karen Taylor**.

We also say farewell to **Sgt Knocker** and **Sue Hardy**, and **Cpls Stu Hartshorne**, and **Katrina Watson**. Congratulations to **LCpl 'Tommo' Thomas** and **Pte Mandy Bratton** on their recent marriage. Although **Mandy** has just left us we hear she's on the way back already!

Finally congrats to **SSgt Dave Belshaw** on his recent CBFC's commendation. Well done!

632 Sig Tp
RA Range Outer Hebrides

THE TROOP'S ROLE
Report by Capt Sandy Gallie

Many readers must wonder what the Troop does, rather like Shetland. Is it really the penal colony of the Royal Signals? To dispel rumours and perhaps to invent a few new ones, here is a very brief review of what goes on out here.

RUMOUR NO 1

The Corps' penal colony—well, with miles and miles of golden beaches, no exercise commitments and an extra 20 days leave a year, there are certain advantages of being out in the Atlantic. Mind you, conversely, we are some 600 miles from London and when there is a gale we certainly know about it, but on balance the posting cannot be claimed to be harsh.

RUMOUR NO 2

After a posting here, the world is your oyster! We think this is true (RSMRO and PB11 take note!) as recently posted members have gone to Berlin, Hong Kong and even to the School of Signals!

THE RANGE

The Gunner Range, which we support primarily, fires Rapiers; however, increasingly, tri-service equipments are being used and the RAF and Navy both use the Deep Range facility which is provided by the Radar cover on the Island of St Kilda—60 miles away in the Atlantic.

The Troop provides static communications for the Range, operating telephone exchanges, commcen, radio links and maintaining the many associated cables. In addition it is tasked with various projects for installing and replacing equipment and cabling systems, and as a focal point for any communication matters. This role splits the Troop into four geographical areas, one of which is on the Island of St Kilda.

THE ST KILDA DETACHMENT

Stories concerning the trials and tribulations of being on St Kilda deserve an article on their own; however, a recent Troop member experienced a variety of weather whilst he was there just for a week—snow, glorious sunshine and force 8/9 gales with winds gusting 70 knots in quick succession!

THE RANGE'S ROLE

The Range's programme consists of firing Rapier (mostly by units from BAOR) either at towed targets in the air or the new Falconet target which is a recoverable flying target system. The Lance missile and various Navy missiles together with RAF air to air missiles are all fired on the Range. Last year the Range hosted over 50 'two star' visitors or their equivalent which gives an idea of the interest which it creates.

TROOP'S CHANGE OF LOCATION

Recently the Troop Headquarters moved from the Airport end of the Range to be nearer the main area of work at Rangehead, co-located with REME wing. This has proved to be very successful for liaising with all the various civilian and military departments.

DTG'S DETACHED TO 242 SIG SQN

The Troop's DTG's are now attached to 242 Sig Sqn in Edinburgh and come back to the Troop as and when required for various tasks on a roster basis—a popular move with the single lads, it is understood!

ACTIVITIES

During the last few months we have participated in various sporting competitions, cross-country, squash and basketball, amongst others and considering the small numbers in the Troop, we have done reasonably well. Our five-a-side team managed to beat both the WRAC and the Wives Club teams, their stamina is legendary!

At Christmas, the Range held its fair share of parties, but the highlight for many from all over the Outer Hebrides was the BATS production of Cinderella. **Sylvia Norton** played one of the ugly sisters and had many people rolling in the isles!

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

During the last couple of months the Troop has seen a large turnover of personalities. Our hellos go to the following, and we wish them a pleasant tour: **WO2 (FofS) 'Mac' McDonald** and **Maggie, SSgt Beecham, Sgt Andy Burns** and **Georgina, LCpls Tony Artigan** and **'Fatz' Fitzgerald** and **Sig Dave French** and **Rick Dickson**.

Farewells go to the following: **WO2 (FofS) Kev Stock**—eat your heart out Blandford, **SSgt Danny Marriott** and **Sandra** to civvy street here as a local on the islands, **Sgts Ray Hayes** to AA College, Harrogate, **Paul Bartlett** to 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **Jim 'Otis' Oates** to Hong Kong. **Cpls Luigi Dedman, 'Smiler' Miles, Dave Eyre** to 242 Sig Sqn and **LCpls 'Paddy' Quee** to 1 ADSR, **Les Wodke** to Berlin and **Sig John Dick** and **Paul Monaghan** to 242 Sig Sqn.

A SPECIAL MENTION

The Troop's past and present members would all like to take this opportunity to wish **Sgt Bob** and **Carol Bayly** and family all the very best for their next posting to 16 Sig Regt, following **Bob**'s treatment at the Gartnarel Hospital in Glasgow for seven months—best wishes.

Sgt Norton on St Kilda displaying one gastronomical advantage of being there

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALTIES

Force Sig Offr	**Capt Niel Swainson**
OC Tp	**Capt Mike Griffiths**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Pete Stemmer**
FofS	**WO2 Ron Kirkwood**
YofS	**WO2 Keith Pywell**

A busy time for the troop over the past two months with all the key personnel changing over and Ex Toucan Blade/Mayan Sword taking place.

EXERCISE TOUCAN BLADE/MAYAN SWORD

This is an exercise to practise the defence of Airport Camp. It all started seven days after the new FofS and troop SSgt arrived. **SSgt Peter Stemmer** was the Platoon IC deployed to guard the perimeter fence in the area of the Tx site and the FofS was IC Commcen defence. The FofS used his powers and delegated **Sgt 'Blod' Godwin** to carry out this task! It has rained quite heavily here for the past few weeks and for those of you who have had the pleasure of serving here, you know that the area around the Tx site is quite wet at the best of times, so after all the rain we have had the platoon at the Tx site had to wade through waist deep swamp water to get to their positions. Someone even claimed to have seen an alligator in the swamp! This was enough for **SSgt Peter Stemmer** who spent the remainder of the exercise manning the radio in the Tx building.

The troop survived the exercise, even survived an attack on the Commcen by the Orange Forces (2 Bn Para Regt in disguise) thanks to **Cpl 'Audy Murphy' Williams** who used more Pyro and Blank ammunition than the rest of the troop put together. During the exercise the troop was reinforced by a detachment from 30 Sig Regt, leg by **SSgt Colin Whewell,** who after two days in a C130 thought that they were getting some time off and were not best pleased to discover that their first four days were spent either wading through water or repelling attacks on the Commcen!

JJ to Jonah: 'Hey Jonah I am sure that there used to be a telegraph pole here'

Back to reality with the troop looking forward to the annual CDCN review, PSA mast maintenance, the official handover of the revamped Commcen, rewiring the telephone system in Airport Camp and a Royal Visit! What shall we do next month!

LINE (TELEMECH) SECTION

It has been a busy time for the line section (when isn't it?). There has been virtually a complete change of personnel apart from **LCpl J. J. Jones** and **Sig 'Mad' Mick Drury**. Both are nearing the end of their tour which they hope will be uneventful.

We say a sad farewell to **Cpl 'I only came for the tan' Bryant, LCpl 'Jonah' Jones**, who is not getting married after all! and to **Sig 'Slumberland' Gough**.

Hello to **Cpl Brian Chinn** who is only here until July Ha Ha. (what is funny about that?, the FofS is here until July 1989!). **LCpl Derek Fielding** and last but not least hello to **Sig Steve 'Freddie Fresh' Bagguley**.

About being here in Paradise, no, I am not talking about **Sgt 'Stiff' Stemmer** but about work! We have just had a visit from CPD who have been here to relocate the telephone exchange and rewire the frame room. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** and **Sig 'I hate CPD' Drury** had a busy time but **Cpl Bryant** knew something that they did not and spent the week sunning himself at St George's Cay.

ADVERT

Telemechs; tired of working on cold wet runways in BAOR? If you are then come to Belize; you will still work on wet runways but at least it is warm . . .!

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

With such a large turnover in the troop it is just about impossible to say personal hellos and goodbyes but the troop wishes to say all the best to those who have been posted (We have not forgotten your Gozome pressies) and for those people who have been posted in have a nice tour and enjoy it . . .!

FAREWELL TO 'BLOD'

This has to be a special farewell. **Sgt 'Blod' Godwin**, following a very serious accident in which he broke his right femur and slightly damaged the rest of his body, has had to be casevaced. Everyone in the troop wishes him a speedy and complete recovery. Some people will do anything to get short toured!

POSTINGS

Cpl Ferghie (WRDC) has bitten one too many people. She has been charged under Sect 69 of the Army act, found guilty and reduced to the rank of ordinary dog and confined to troop lines until her posting to Cooma Cairn.

640 Sig Tp (EW)
Blandford

640 EW Troop—December 1987

Rear Row (L to R): Cpl Cooper, Sig Logan, LCpl Hamer, Cpl Churchward, LCpls Minett, Costello, Sig Bishop, Jenkins, LCpl Doran, Sig Mundy, Campbell and Cpl Harris

Middle Row (L to R): Cpls Paton, Felix, Sig Smith, LCpl Coupland, LCpl Beaumont, Cpls Blades REME, Gemmell, Sig Wilson, Sorley, LCpl Greene, Cpls Finch and Roberts

Front Row (L to R): Sgts Mitchell REME, Willis, Taylor, WO2 Green, Capt Goff, OC, Sgts Hayward, Carr and Street

Following our absence from the last issue of *The Wire* magazine we return on this occasion with a varied report of our activities over the last few months. Hopefully readers will see that here in Blandford we hardly have a dull moment.

A Troop photograph was taken in December, by **Cpl Andy Marchant**, for the Troop History Book. **Capt Andy Goff**, the OC, decided to use the opportunity to record, also for our History Book, a more dignified entry to the Troop—with our very own Unit commissionaires! For a nominal fee they can be hired out for weddings, disco's etc.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We have seen more departures than arrivals over the past few months. We have said farewell to **Sgt Graham Miles** and **LCpl 'Blue' Nicholson** (both to 1 Armd Div), **Cpl 'Sting' Ray** (to 14 Sig Regt), **LCpl 'Benny' Benham** (to 3 Armd Div) and **Sig Rick Taylor** (to civvy street). We wish them and their families much success. We welcome **LCpl 'Taff' Minett, LCpl Malone** and **WO2 John Tuck**—all making trips in the opposite direction, from Germany. We hope you settle quickly and are soon used to paying the higher prices in UK.

EXERCISE PURPLE WARRIOR

The exercise has featured quite extensively in other Unit's notes and we feel it only right to produce our version of the experiences of the Troop during the deployment. Initially we deployed under command and in support of 3 Cdo Bde. Once we became established on the shore and provided our normal quality service to the Royal Marines, after two-three days, we 'chopped' to the command and support of 5 AB Bde. This was the first occasion that the Troop had deployed with 5 AB Bde and therefore it proved to be a testing period for both the HQ Staff and the Troop. Our primary aim became one of introducing the role and capabilities of the Troop to the HQ Staff and the Commander. Suffice to say the Commander and his Chief of Staff personally congratulated the Troop on its role and performance. It is safe to say that the Troop now has many new friends—and converts—to EW.

Apart from the requirements of the exercise it was also useful for introducing new Unit members to the role of the Troop. Below we feature a report from one of the newer members of the Troop and his impression of his first field deployment with 640.

FORWARD ELEMENT REPORT
by Cpl Alan Churchward

After much delay, due to the scale of the exercise and partly due to adverse weather conditions off the coast, we finally reached our landing area in the bay of Loch Ryan. The scene of the landing was not dissimilar to that of San Carlos Bay in 1982 but this time the coast was lined with the local population armed with cameras and binoculars. In just over 24 hours thousands of men and much equipment was off-loaded and deployed to initial locations. I deployed as Detachment Commander with one of the Troop's forward elements, a DF detachment. I was looking forward to my first deployment in this role albeit to a location I had not anticipated. After landing my detachment broke away from the rest of the Troop and we took up our position well forward of the Troop HQ. Despite the obvious distance from the Troop HQ we were still kept very busy throughout the whole of the exercise deployment—which is far better than idle moments. The exercise was rather small considering the number of Troops on the ground. This limited the movements of my own detachment but we still managed to practise moving by day and night and became more familiar with the requirements of setting-up and tearing down our equipment. As a forward element it is not always possible to follow the flow of the overall exercise play, nor is it possible to realise the success or failure of our tasks. Thankfully a full debrief by the OC and 2IC made us realise that our efforts were worthwhile and made me fully appreciate the role the Troop has to play on an exercise such as this. I eagerly look forward to the next Troop deployment and hope it is as interesting and successful as my first.

ASSAULT COURSE COMPETITION

As a means of putting the Troop in the right frame of mind for the Medieval Banquet and forthcoming leave period, two seven-man teams were entered in 30 Sig Regt's Assault Course Competition. The weather was ideal for the 12 teams that entered—dull, misty and cold. Many obstacles had to be overcome over the course, which was set around Blandford Camp. In order to make things more difficult for each team they had to carry two logs with them for two-thirds of the course. Obstacles that had to be negotiated including a 20ft wall, an assault course proper, a booby-trapped valley, a water tunnel and a confidence course. Having passed through those ordeals the teams

then had to collect a trailer and man-handle it to the finishing post. All those who took part are to be congratulated for their efforts. None of them appeared worse for wear later on that evening at the Banquet and many stories were told.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

At the beginning of the year the Troop 2IC, **WO2 (Q) Dave Green**, introduced a Unit 'Superstar' competition. It takes the form of a league table and points are awarded during various games for such things as goals scored, tries scored, etc. Those on winning teams are awarded double the points of the losing teams. Where possible the Troop now plays with a more competitive attitude and on a more regular basis.

We have many Troop members who have represented 30 Sig Regt at sport and they include **LCpls John Hamer, 'Paddy' Doran, 'Taff' Minett** and **Sig Steve Bishop** at Soccer, **Sig Sorley** at Rugger (also Corps representative), **Sgt Sam Street, Cpls Roberts, Paton** and **LCpl 'Cos' Costello** at Hockey, **LCpl Billy Beaumont** at Cross-country, **Cpl Mark Finch** at Orienteering and finally **Cpls Paton** and **Mark Harris** at Basketball. **WO2 Green** is also the Regimental 2IC of both Badminton and Basketball and has been known to play a game of Basketball or two, when his wife is either unaware or too late to stop him. The OC professes to be good at all sports, particularly athletics, but unfortunately does not get the chance to prove it. It is usually as a result of his workload on the one day of the week he is actually in his office.

The Troop recently decided to test its soccer ability in a match against 1 Bde Sig Sqn. The aim was to prove our capability to join the SWDist league next year as a minor unit side. The match was organised by **Cpl Harris**. Having collared the four regimental players for this fixture our chances of winning were vastly improved. In the first half the team attacked quite strongly and were soon able to find the net. Scoring on each opportunity presented to them we were soon 3—0 up. A lapse in defence allowed the visitors to score, against the usually reliable **Sig Scott Logan** in goal, but there was a quick response and the Troop led 4—1 at half time. Despite a stirring display by the visitors in the second half the Troop continued to score at will and the game ended with an outstanding victory for us by 9—2. **Cpl Harris** scored five goals and the others were scored by **LCpls Doran, Hamer, Cpl Finch** and **Cpl Paul Blades REME**. The man of the match, for contributing to at least six goals, was **Sig Sorley**.

TROOP BANQUET

As a change from the normal type of Christmas function the Troop decided to travel to a banqueting hall in Salisbury for an evening of medieval entertainment. Despite the obvious theme some Troop members came dressed as Vikings—caught up in a time warp? The entertainment was chiefly provided by the band and a court jester. As the largest party attending it fell to the Troop to provide a Lord and Lady of the Hall. After a quick body-swerve by the OC, the 2IC selected the suitably-attired **Cpl** and **Mrs Harris**. Certain rules of the house were explained to the good Lord and Lady before the 'festivities' commenced. One particular rule involved a form of punishment involving both stocks and a 'whacker'. This punishment was given to offenders who caused displeasure to the Lord and Lady.

Wine began to flow and food was placed on the table at various intervals. Whilst this was going on some people obviously upset the Lord and suffered the consequences. The Viking band began to sing their own type of songs and as the medieval band was not familiar with either the words or music required to accompany the Vikings, they too fell foul of the 'rules' and suffered due punishment.

In due course the OC sought the displeasure of the Lord and Lady and, as expected, he was placed in the stocks to receive his 'whacking'. Various numbers were called out suggesting the amount of 'whacks' he should receive. As one or two Troop members had recently received punishment from the OC—in his normal attire—the figure 252 was agreed upon. At least this suggestion seemed far better than 640! He was duly punished and still has a cushion on his seat in the office.

Near the end of the evening all party members returned to a downstairs bar for some refreshments whilst the banqueting hall was cleared for dancing. We returned a little later and were introduced to medieval-style dances by the court jester, a gentleman by the name of **Mr Codpiece**. Whatever the theme it was certainly well received and everyone entered into it all with great enthusiasm. The night soon came to a close and a most enjoyable time was had by all. It was also apparent, from **Mr Codpiece** and the band, that the Troop had provided most of the entertainment for the evening.

Thoughts are now turning towards a similar banquet in Summer and even jousting has been suggested!

The Lord and Lady of the court—alias Cpl Mark and Mrs Carol Harris

Capt Andy Goff about to accept his punishment. Some 30 volunteers offered to dish it out!

FINALLY

Finally we extend our congratulations to our long-serving (and long-suffering) SNCOi/cAdmin—**SSgt Dave Taylor**—on his recent promotion. We also congratulate **Sgt Mark Finch** on his pending promotion which ties-in with his posting to 30 Sig Regt. At least he remains on Blandford Camp and can therefore celebrate his promotion in the same Mess.

Association News

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

Report by Mr W. L. Grandsome

It is always a pleasure to receive the familiar white envelope containing *The Wire*, even more so is the anticipation of catching up on the latest Corps news, and on the basis of to each his own, my first reaction is to scan the Association News pages for news and comments from other Branches. As an erstwhile committee member I can vouch for the fact that the notes are much appreciated by the particular Branch concerned.

To briefly recap on 1987, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our members, to commend our Branch Committee for all that has been achieved during the past year. The social events have been many and varied, and as a consequence there has been an appreciable rise in Branch membership. With regard to social events, it would be remiss not to mention, and to thank, the permanent staff at Burniston Barracks, for arranging the very successful Christmas Draw in the NAAFI.

On a very cold Sunday morning during January the members were 'mustered' for an 'al fresco' group photograph session. Remarkably, and to the credit of the old and bold, there was a very good turn out indeed—unfortunately, the 'pukka gen' regarding the rum ration was unfounded! The occasion was combined with an excellent curry lunch prepared by the Branch Chairman **Mr Sid Steer**, and his wife **Elaine**. It was at the luncheon that the Branch President **Maj (Retd) Willie Watson** announced that **Lt Col (QM) Tom Cran**, CO, Burniston Barracks was due to retire from the Army within the next few months. The President, on behalf of the members, presented **Lt Col Cran** with a crystal vase. **Lt Col Cran** thanked the President, and members, and wished the Branch every success, saying he regretted that he would be leaving Scarborough.

Miss Margot Foulds our only lady member, is doing a very worthwhile job cleaning, and looking after oil polluted sea birds, and giving them sanctuary at her home until they are recovered.

'JIMMY CLUB' OPENING TIMES

Branch meetings are on the first Saturday of every month at 2000 hrs.

Informal Social every Friday at 2030 hrs.

Wednesday Club, Lunchtime get-together for retired veterans.

A warm welcome to all RSA members!

Members of the Scarborough Branch with the commanding officer and staff Burniston Barracks

SOUTHPORT AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Report by Mr W. C. Brodie MBE; President

In common with most other branches, Southport jogs along with a regular monthly meeting. Ours is held on the third Thursday of each month at 2015 hrs in the Conservative Club, Bath Street, Southport and is supported by a loyal band of stalwarts. A hearty welcome is extended to any visiting Association members to our seaside town to join us at our meeting and, of course, at functions, which are usually held at the same venue on a Friday night.

Bill Hesketh is our hardworking welfare officer. He manages to visit our sick and keeps a close contact with our widows.

Alex Shields, born February 1899, has had a very interesting military career. He volunteered for the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1917 and was sent to France but after a few weeks was transferred to the Royal Engineers and was posted to the RE Signal Service in Egypt to help protect the Suez Canal from the Turks. In June 1920 **Sig A. Shields** became a founder member of the Corps of Signals and served in Ireland and in the Army of the Rhine. He left the Corps in 1928 but was recalled as a reservist in September 1939 and was again sent to France in May 1940, this time with 3 L of C Sigs, to become a Dunkirk Veteran. Now in his forties he spent the rest of the War as a signals specialist storeman in the Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington. To mark **Alex**'s achievements, at a recent social evening jointly run by the Royal Engineers and the Royal Signals Associations **Alex** was the guest of honour and was presented with commemorative plaques from both Associations in the presence of His Worship the Mayor of Sefton, **Cllr Eric Storey**. Well done **Alex**; service in two World Wars in the infantry and three different Corps was worth celebrating.

In an effort to be a part of the local community, Southport Branch has made modest donations at Christmas to several worthy charities. This year we decided to do it differently and chose a sole recipient for our gift. We approached Southport Infirmary, where many of us have been cared for over the years, and asked them what we could buy for them. As a result we raided our funds and at our next social evening were able to present the Maternity Wing of the hospital with a respiration monitor. This is an electronic device that reduces cot deaths by monitoring the breathing; an audible alarm sounds if the infant stops breathing for more than 10 seconds and we feel that if we help to prevent only one cot death it will be very rewarding.

With fraternal greetings to all other Branches.

Alex Shields

5 TRAINING REGIMENT—JUNE 1959

The photograph shows members of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, Ripon in June 1959. It is hoped that it might be possible to arrange a reunion to coincide with this year's main event in Catterick. Those interested please write to **Mr Tom Handley**, 185 Penlan Crescent, Uplands, Swansea SA2 0RJ.

Back Row: Sgts Barlow (ACC), Reed, Reay (RAEC), Reid, Harrison (REME), Smith, Scott (RASC), Frodsham (REME), Jacobs (REME) and SSgt Raworth (ACC)
Third Row: Sgts Custus, Barber (RAMC), SSgt Gregg, Sgts Patient, Lumley, Fayers, Boaler, Harris, Flake and Maskill
Second Row: SSgt Remmer, Sgt Dunford, SSgts Hammond, Jagger, Patterson, Smith, Morris, Pinkney, Warner, Handley, Hawtin and Stear
Front Row: SSM Hornby, WO2 Maynard (REME), SSM Charles, WO1 Fairhurst (REME), Lt Col J. W. Eagle MBE ERD RSM, D. Kempton, Brig P. M. P. Hobson DSO, Maj J. P. Wolfendale, WO Bowman (RAEC), RQMS Hecquet, RQMS Hutchinson and SSM Crabtree

— Sport —

SQUASH

Report by Capt John Newman

Once again the Corps Squash Championships for 1987 were held at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate with the Inter-Corps Championships following immediately after at Waverley Squash Club, Farnham, Surrey.

ROYAL SIGNALS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
OPEN

The excellent turn out for this season's Championships was mainly due to the efforts of our BAOR and overseas players. There were 44 entries and some very high standard squash played. This year for the first time in five years the competition was really open as the No 1 seed and defending champion **Cpl Tom Pollard** was unable to enter due to Combined Services Commitments. The eventual winner was **Sgt Nick Ranier** the No 3 seed from 13 Sig Regt who beat the young up and coming **Sig Shaun Humphrey** from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt 3—1.

PLATE

First and second losers are entered for this competition. A chance for our young up and coming stars to shine like young **AT Wood** who is to be congratulated in reaching the semi finals. The eventual winner of the plate was **SSgt Hall** 22 Sig Regt who beat **SSgt Williams** 3—1.

OVER 35

A popular competition which produced the best matches and most competitive game played in the right spirit. An excellent example of how squash should and can be played. Once again the final was between **WO2 Dave Higginson** and **WO2 Bill Hutton, Dave** running out the eventual winner by 3—0.

SUPER PLATE

For the first time a Super Plate was introduced to give those players knocked out at the last 16 stages (the time the top 8 seeds enter the competiton) a chance of winning a prize. This year's final was between **WO2 Dave Higginson** the No 4 seed and **LCpl Dave Gallagher** a past plate winner, **Dave Higginson** winning 3—0.

VETERANS

This year's competition had a poor response with only four entries. However, the final, once again, was played in the right spirit and an example to all. The eventual winner was **SSgt Jim McGovern** who beat **Col Conrad Garton** in three hard fought sets to nil (where have all our Veterans gone?).

THE DAVIS STEWART CUP

This year only six units entered the three man team competition and, therefore, the teams were split into two leagues A and B:-

League A	League B
AA Coll Harrogate	22 Sig Regt
8 Sig Regt	7 Sig Regt
4 AOSR	210 Sig Sqn

The winners of each league met in the final. This year's was the reverse of last as 22 Sig Regt beat AA Coll Harrogate by 3—0 in the final.

ASRA INTER CORPS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

Eighteen teams and some 100 of the best Army players assembled for the Championships at the Waverley Squash Club between 20-22 November 1987. The competition is run on the three divisional basis. The Corps being in Division One together with APTC, RAOC, RCT, AMC, RE (newly promoted).

The players who represented the Corps in the 25 games played were **WO2 W. Hutton, WO2 D. Higginson, Sgt N. Ranier, Sgt S. Roberts, Cpl T. Pollard** and **Sig S. Humphries**:-

R Signals v RCT won 3—2
R Signals v AMS won 3—2
R Signals v RAOC lost 2—3
R Signals v RE lost 1—4
R Signals v APTC lost 1—4

Final position Division One winners (1) APTC, (2) RE, (3) RAOC, (4) R Signals, (5) RCT and (6) AMS (relegated this year).

This was a good result, praise to all players for their spirited efforts and superb sportsmanship on and off court. Out of the 18 teams ours was the youngest team there and with the continual support from CO's the team will, with experience, win the Championships within the next two or three years.

FRIENDLY FIXTURES

In addition, the Corps played three more matches against APTC, RCT and AMS. All three were excellent matches with the Corps just losing to APTC and RCT 3—2 and beating AMS 4—1. We took the opportunity to bring new players into those matches and the future is indeed bright.

Open Competition
Winner—Sgt Nick Ranier (13 Sig Regt)

Super Plate
Winner—LCpl Dave Gallagher (22 Sig Regt)

Team Competition
Winners—22 Sig Regt

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHTING FIXTURES 1988

Date	*Fixture*	*Location*
April		
27	Royal Engineers (Inter-Corps League)	Upnor SC
May		
3- 8	Day Skippers Course	Solent
11-12	R Signals Dinghy Regatta	Netley SC
13	Retired Members Regatta	Netley SC
17-22	R Signals Off-shore Regatta	Solent
21-22	R Signals Rally	Solent
June		
8	Royal Army Pay Corps (ICL)	Parkstone YC
14-15	R Signals Regatta	Seaview YC
16-17	Triangular (RA,RE) Regatta	Seaview YC
18-19	Army Dinghy Championships	Netley SC
22	Infantry (ICL)	Netley SC
24-25	Army Boardsailing Championships (provisional)	Browndown
30- 1 Jul	Army Keelboard Championships	Seaview YC
July		
2- 5	ASA Off-shore Regatta	Gosport
6	Princess Elizabeth Cup	Gosport
7-10	Services Off-short Regatta	Gosport-Guernsey
13	Royal Artillery (ICL)	Parkstone YC
16	Gold Cup	Seaview YC
22	Army Junior Championships	Portland
28-29	Army Inter-Unit Team Championships (provisional)	Netley SC
August		
	Nil	
September		
10-11	Bos'un Nationals (provisional)	Plymouth
14	Royal Army Ordnance Corps (ICL)	Parkstone YC
13-22	R Signals YC Regatta	Kiel
22-23	Inter-Services (Dinghy)	Portland
28	REME (ICL)	Parkstone YC
October		
15-16	Services Single-handed Championships	Netley SC

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● SAC Rob Wilson with other committee members presenting Jim Davidson with a station plaque.

Jim helps raise over DM35,000

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At October a sub-committee was formed and headed by DJ Tony Pye 11 SIG. The com also decided sponsored the Pre

Chris Poole, Steve
Chris, Eas
Terry

Over

Jim Davidson and Wg Cdr Matson together with both cheques.

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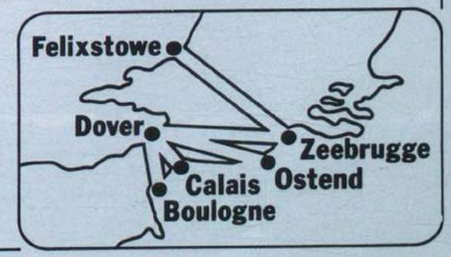

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

May 1988

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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. 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.

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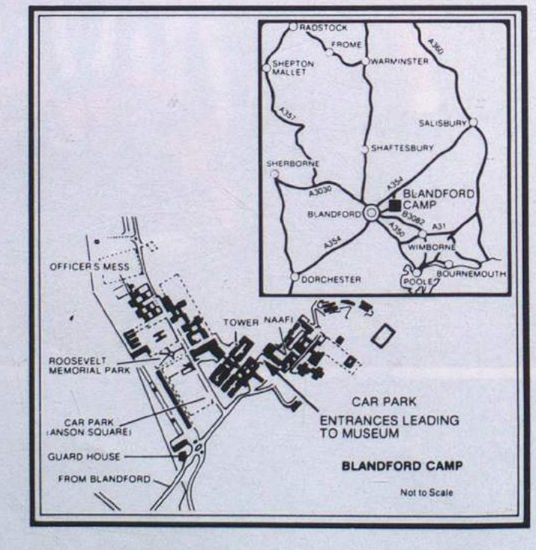

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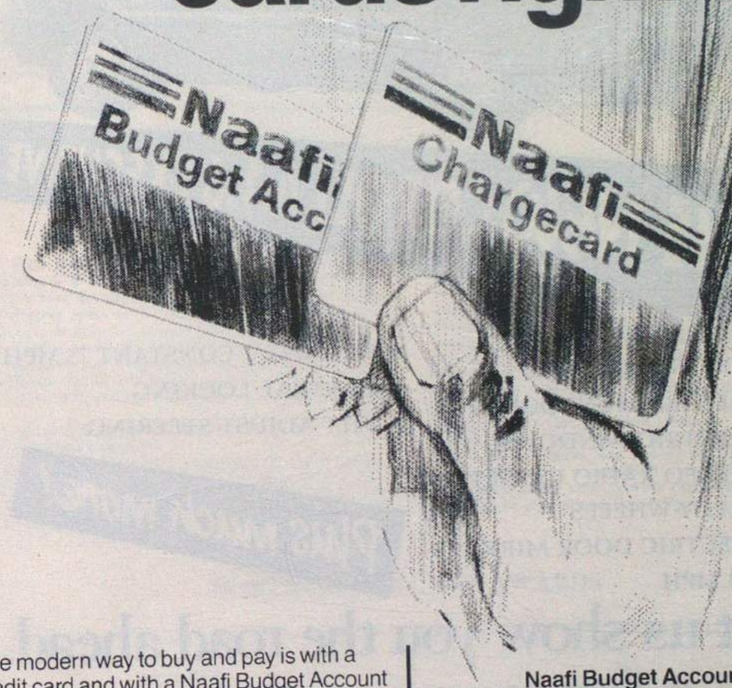

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The Wire

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FROM COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND
THE DEATHS OF CORPORALS D. HOWES AND D. WOOD

The deaths in West Belfast on Saturday 19 March 1988 of two Royal Signals soldiers is a tragedy which has shocked the civilised world. Soldiers have been murdered before, and sadly may be again in the cause of bringing peace to Northern Ireland, but it was the manner of their deaths described in graphic detail by the media which provoked an enormous wave of sympathy for the parents and family of Corporals Howes and Woods, and for all the soldiers of the Royal Corps of Signals serving in Northern Ireland.

I would like to make three points for the benefit of readers of *The Wire*.

Both soldiers were on duty and were on their way back to Lisburn when the dreadful incident happened.

There has been enormous sympathy, expressed in the form of thousands of letters, telephone calls, and flowers from all over the world from as far away as Australia and California, as well as the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland, from Roman Catholic and Protestant alike. On the Monday following the deaths the Mayors of Belfast and Lisburn came in person to pay their respects; on the Tuesday the Garrison War Memorial started to disappear under the number of wreaths; on the Wednesday Memorial Services were held throughout Ulster, including one in Belfast which brought the City Centre to a standstill, and on the Friday a Memorial Service was held in Lisburn Garrison which was attended by at least two thousand soldiers and their families.

The many expressions of grief and sympathy that have been received, not only for the families, but also for the members of the Corps serving in Northern Ireland have been warm and compassionate. Many people have written in, offering help and hospitality to soldiers, and seeking pen friends. It is clear that the average Ulsterman is ashamed and shocked, but also extremely appreciative of the untiring work carried out in Northern Ireland by the Army in general and Royal Signals in particular.

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during April, for service in Northern Ireland.

Bar to BEM
SSgt G. R. Burrows QGM BEM

BEM
Sgt M. W. Collins
Sgt N. Thomas

Mention in Despatches
Maj C. D. McK Kemp
Capt (TOT) H. E. Connor
WO1 J. Leivers
Cpl J. Farnell

OUR COVER PICTURE

The School of Signals football team in jubilant mood following their victory over 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment in the final of the Army Challenge Cup at Aldershot on 13 April 1988. A full report appears on page 234

Back (L to R): Capt (TOT) Peter Smurthwaite (Football Officer), Cpl Terry Smith, Cpl Tony Redman, SSgt Ally MacKenzie, SSgt John Dyer, Cpl Mark Shergold, Cpl Steve Welsh, SSgt Dave Taylor and LCpl Scouse Dunleavy

Front (L to R): SSgt Paul Molloy APTC, Sgt Andy Edwards, Sgt Sandy Brown, Sig Tony Robinson, Cpl Tony Smith and Cpl Michael Cheetham

ARMY CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

On Wednesday 13 April the School of Signals and 28 Amph Engr Regt met at the Aldershot Military Statium to contest the Army Challenge Cup Final.

This being the Centenary of the Army Football Association, it was a very special affair, graced by the presence of **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, Mr Bobby Robson, Mr Bert Millichip** and a host of other dignitaries. The Band of the Grenadier Guards added to the atmosphere and the opening ceremonies matched the importance of the occasion. Even the weather did its best and provided a sunny day with a brisk breeze and perfect playing conditions.

The match began with the School almost scoring within 30 seconds when **Cpl Michael Cheetham** robbed the opposition full back and crossed the ball into the penalty area, but unfortunately there was no-one there to finish off the move. After this exciting start the School suddenly found themselves a goal down in the third minute when a defensive error gave the ball to 28 Amph Engr Regt and it was driven home.

The match then settled down, with the School of Signals having the better part of the exchanges. Midway through the half **Cpl Michael Cheetham** was brought down in the opposition's penalty area and **Sgt Sandy Brown** safely tucked away the penalty to level the scores and bring some relief to the large contingent of Signals supporters. The School continued to look the more dangerous team and they went into the lead 10 minutes before the half-time break with an excellently taken goal by **Cpl Michael Cheetham** who turned the Engineers' full back inside out before driving the ball into the net.

The School of Signals started the second half strongly, looking as if they were capable of extending their lead. Disaster struck however after 12 minutes' play when a long throw-in resulted in 28 Amph Engr Regt levelling the score. Two minutes later things looked even worse for the School when a well taken corner by the Engineers went directly into the net and suddenly the School was 3—2 down.

The School of Signals was now looking a tired and dispirited side and needed something special to get it back into the match. This was provided by **Cpl Michael Cheetham** who latched on to a superb pass from **Cpl Tony Redman**, broke clear of the Engineers' defence and coolly slotted the ball between the Keeper's legs. The game then fluctuated from end to end, neither team being able to score the Winner before the 90 minutes were up.

Extra time began with both teams looking tired and passes going astray in a scrappy phase of the match. Disaster struck once again half-way through the first period when **SSgt Dave Taylor** handled the ball in the penalty area and the referee pointed to the penalty spot. You could hear a pin drop in the Signals supporters section of the ground as the Engineers prepared to take the penalty but the roar of relief when the penalty was missed must have been heard in Farnborough. This miss gave the School of Signals just the lift the team needed and it began to take control. With just four minutes of extra time remaining **Sgt Andy Edwards** drove a superb shot into the corner of the Engineers' net to seal the match for the School of Signals.

This was not a classic Final but it was full of incident and excitement for the spectators and could have gone either way right up to the final whistle.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent presented the Challenge Cup to **Sgt Sandy Brown** and the Man of the Match Award to **Cpl Michael Cheetham**, selected for the award by the England Manager, **Mr Bobby Robson**, for an outstanding display of forward play and finishing skill.

A special mention should be made of **Cpl Tony Redman** who must have been a close contender for the Man of the Match Award for an outstanding performance at the heart of the School of Signals defence.

Congratulations to **Capt Peter Smurthwaite** and his entire team, and to all those whose support throughout the season made this success possible.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent presenting the Army Challenge Cup trophy to Sgt Sandy Brown, Captain of the School of Signals team, after its victory over 28 Amph Engr Regt at Aldershot on 13 April

Photograph by Courtesy of Soldier Magazine

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ARMY CHALLENGE CUP

by Brig T. H. Wheawell, President of Royal Signals Soccer

At 5.15 pm on Wednesday, 13 April 1988, **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent** presented The Army Challenge Cup to **Sgt Sandy Brown** and the School of Signals team after their magnificent victory over 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment by 4—3 after extra time in this Centenary Year of the Army Football Association. The game was as exciting and as close as the score suggests and was a match worthy of the special occasion in which the Army Football Association was celebrating its 100th anniversary. Bobby Robson the England Team Manager elected **Cpl Mick Cheetham** the Man of the Match for his two goals and constant worry to the Sappers defence. Significantly **Cheetham** was also a member of the 28 Signal Regiment team which won the Cup last season in another memorable final against SEME Bordon. On that occasion 28 Signal Regiment won 4—3 after extra time in a replay following a 4—4 draw also after extra time the previous day. This is the first time the Corps has held the Trophy in successive seasons and there can be no better time to have done so than in the Centenary Year.

The Army Challenge Cup was first played for in 1888/89 the same season that the Football League was founded and some 25 years after the formation of the Football Association. Army teams featured prominently in the FA Cup in the early years with the Sappers winning it in 1875.

The 4th Divisional Signal Regiment was the first Corps team to reach the Army Soccer final when they lost 2—1 to the 1st Battalion the Sherwood Foresters in 1930/31 and it was not until 1952/53 that the Cup was won for the first time when 7th Training Regiment beat 29th Battalion RAOC 2—1. In that season 260 units entered the competition, the most ever, at a time when many young professional footballers were completing National Service. **LCpl Albert Quixall** and **Sig Alan Finney** formed a formidable right wing for 7th Signal Regiment and Sheffield Wednesday. **(Quixall** won his first England International cap in 1954 and was later transferred in 1958 to Manchester United for a then record fee of £45,000. **Finney** won an England cap at under 23-level in 1957). Since then Royal Signals unit teams have won a further seven times, 1955/56—2nd Training Regiment, 1965/66—24th Signal Regiment, 1974/75—8th Signal Regiment who beat 28th (BR) Signal Regiment 1—0, in 1976/77, 1981/82 and 1987/88 28th (BR) Signal Regiment and now the School of Signals. In addition 7th Training Regiment, 22nd Signal Regiment twice and 28th (BR) Signal Regiment four times have been losing finalists. For six successive seasons from 1972/73 to 1978/79 a Royal Signals team appeared in the final at Aldershot Military Stadium.

Brig T. H. Wheawell would like to hear from anyone with details or photographs of the teams and finals outlined in this short article. They may be addressed to him at Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Room 1309, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.

Three members of Royal Signals were in the Army XIs which won this year's Inter Service Championships. **Sgt 'Sandy' Brown** captained the sides which beat the Royal Navy (3—0) and Royal Air Force (4—0) in the Army Football Association Centenary Year. In both teams were **Sgt Andy Edwards** and **Cpl Mick Cheetham** who was the scorer of two goals against the Royal Air Force. **Cpl Cheetham** was awarded his Army 'Colours' at the conclusion of the match at RAF Uxbridge.

Centenary Commemorative Cover issued by the Army Football Association to coincide with the Centenary Final of the Army Challenge Cup. The cover is an action shot of Cpl (now Sgt) A. (Sandy) Brown, the Army Team Captain

– From our "In" Tray –

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

The tragic deaths in March of **Cpl Howes** and **Cpl Wood** resulted in quite dramatic demonstrations of public good will towards the Army in general and Royal Signals in particular. Letters of sympathy for the families continue to flow in to many places where the Corps is represented, often accompanied by donations and by commendations on the bravery of the NCOs.

On a much happier note, two young Royal Signals officers have taken part in a most exciting communications 'first'. On 21 March, **Capt Simon Lowe** and **Lt John Vlasto** manned the Marconi satellite ground station at the British Services Everest Expedition Base Camp and put through the first international telephone call from Mount Everest, courtesy of INMARSAT and BT. The circuit has proved to be reliable and a great benefit to the morale of the climbers and their families.

RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS

An expanded programme of recruiting and publicity events for the period June-August is listed below. The programme for the White Helmets, Blue Helmets Freefall Parachute Display Team, the Mobile Display Team and the Regimental Information Teams are included together with TA events. Members of the Corps, serving or retired, who visit displays are urged to make themselves known to the teams and to chat with the members.

SOLDIER RECRUITING

We ended the recruiting year on 31 March with only a handful of vacancies unfilled. The small June intake of apprentices and juniors is badly undersubscribed, but there are mitigating reasons for this, and the totals for the much larger August and September intakes are already looking healthy. It is too early to report on adult recruiting figures for 88/89, but we are hoping that the mood of pessimism which pervades the Army's recruiting organisation is unjustified! The one trade that will inevitably give cause for concern is the Electronic Warfare Operator. Tips from our readers on how to attract potential EW Ops to the Corps will be most welcome!

SPECIAL RECRUITERS

The Royal Signals Manning and Record office has already started recruiting the six special recruiters mentioned in our last report. They are to be placed at Darlington, Chelmsford, Dartford, Plymouth, Crewe and Newport (Mon), and the first will be in position by the time you read this article.

SATISFIED SOLDIER/JUNIORS/APPRENTICES

You will remember that in the last issue we forecast a large increase in the numbers of juniors and apprentices being attached to their home ACIO's for a week after training. We can now report that the scheme has got off to a flying start with 37 juniors and 4 adults from 11 Sig Regt taking part in March and April. This is just the support the Corps needs.

OFFICER RECRUITING

The Royal Signals National University Officers Training Corps Competition, held at the School of Signals on 19 March, was most successful. The opportunities to see and try out communication equipment, and to meet Regular Army and TA Royal Signals Soldiers and officers, helped to confirm the commitment to the Corps of a number of undergraduates, and to excite interest in several new contacts. It is hoped that a similar event, to be staged in Catterick on 26-27 November, will continue the action.

The task of the Corps' Signal Training Teams, who will be helping at 10 CCF Central Camps this year, is progressing well. Units providing the teams have been detailed, and contacts with the Cadet Training Teams are being made. The support being given to this activity by the SO2s Comms at District HQ is gratefully ackowledged.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS MAY-AUGUST 1988

JUNE

Date	*Event/Location*	*Recruiting Team or Unit*
1-4	Bath, Royal Show	Mobile Display Team
1-6	Northern Ireland Tour	Royal Signals Band
2-17	Eastern District	KAPE: 16 Sig Regt
4	Redcar Rugby Club Gala	2 Div RIT
4	Gosport RNAY Fleetlands Open Day	5 AB Bde Sqn
4-5	Brentwood Tattoo	19 Bde Sqn RIT
4-5	Bournemouth TVS Air Show	White Helmets
5	N'allerton Mencap Gala	2 Div Sig Regt RIT
5	Plymouth Horse Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
6-9	Tynemouth Carnival	Mobile Display Team
6-10	Isle of Man Show	White Helmets
11	Shildon Fair	2 Div Sig Regt RIT
11	Sutton Coldfield APSC	Training Group RIT
11	Addlestone Carnival	White Helmets
11-12	Swindon Nostalgia Weekend	30 Sig Regt RIT
11-13	Church Fenton Air Display	Mobile Display Team
12	Romford Show	White Helmets
12	Teesmouth Lifeboat	2 Div RIT
13-4 Jul	Western District	KAPE: 28 (UK) Sig Regt
13-17	NW District Tour	Royal Signals Band
14-19	Edinburgh KAPE	Training Group RIT
15	Kemp Welch ACF	30 Sig Regt RIT
15-16	SHAPE, Belgium	White Helmets/Blue Helmets
16-19	Essex County Show	Mobile Display Team
17-19	Condor Show	Mobile Display Team
17-20	Sennelager, Rhine Army Summer Show	White Helmets
18	Dunsfold	5 AB Bde Sqn
18-19	Plymouth Medieval Fair	30 Sig Regt RIT
18-19	Putney Show	31 Sig Regt (V) RC
20-23	Whitby Show	Mobile Display Team
21-22	HAC London Show	Blue Helmets
21-26	Glasgow KAPE	Training Group RIT
22-23	Lincoln Show	Mobile Display Team
25	Catterick Reunion	White Helmets
25	N'allerton, N Yorks Show	Blue Helmets
25-26	York Festival and Parade	Mobile Display Team
26	Guildford Gala	5 AB Bde Sqn
29-1 Jul	Bassingbourn, Army Exb for Schools	Training Group RIT/Mobile Display Team
30-2 Jul	Winchester, Light Div Depot Tattoo	White Helmets

JULY

1-3	Southampton Show	5 AB Bde Sqn
1-15	SW Dist	KAPE: 243 Sig Sqn
2	Redcar Brit Steel Gala	Blue Helmets
2	Gloucester, Newent Fete	30 Sig Regt RIT
3	Hereford, Bromyard Show	White Helmets
3-9	Bournemouth Bandstand	Royal Signals Band
4	Menwith Hill Gala	Training Group RIT
4-9	St Agnes Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
4-9	Plymouth Armada Celebrations	Mobile Display Team
9	Hillingdon Carnival	Royal Signals Band
9	Pudsey Show	Blue Helmets
9	Stockton School Summer Fair	2 Div Sig Regt RIT
9-10	Wandsworth Show	31 Sig Regt (V) RC
9-10	South Derby Festival of Leisure	Training Group RIT
10	Bexley Show	Blue Helmets/White Helmets
10-16	Torbay Carnival	Mobile Display Team
11-16	Helston Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
12-14	Harrogate, The Great Yorkshire Show	Training Group RIT/White Helmets
15	Wathgill CCF Central Camp	2 Div RIT
15-17	Corby Highland Show	19 Bde Sqn RIT
16-17	Crystal Palace Show	31 Sig Regt (V) RC
16-17	Middle Wallop International Air Tattoo	White Helmets
16-17	Hornsea Gala	Training Group RIT
17-24	Minehead Butlins	Mobile Display Team
19	Bedale School	2 Div Sig Regt RIT
19-22	Wathgill Camp CCF	Training Group RIT
23-24	Northampton, Battle of Naseby Celebrations	Blue Helmets
24	East of England Air Tattoo	Training Group RIT
24	Chester Road Safety Fun Day	White Helmets
24	Filey Sea Cadets Regatta	2 Div Sig Regt RIT
25	Hickstead Show Jumping	Royal Signals Band
25-29	RAF Brawdy Show	Mobile Display Team
26-30	South Shields Mardi Gras	Training Group RIT
26-30	Tyneside Summer Exhibition	White Helmets
27-29	Peterborough Expo 88	19 Bde Sqn RIT
27-10 Aug	Canada Tour	Royal Signals Band
29-30	York Garrison Open Day	2 Div Sig Regt RIT
30	York Kohima Day	Blue Helmets
30	Bovey Tracey Carnival	30 Sig Regt RIT
30-31	South Shields Mardi Gras	White Helmets
31-6 Aug	Teignmouth Regatta	30 Sig Regt RIT

AUGUST

1-8	Inverness Show	White Helmets
1-14	Inverness, Fife Northern KAPE	Mobile Display Team
2-7	Inverness Northern KAPE	Training Group RIT
3-6	Colchester Tattoo	19 Bde Sqn RIT
4	Plymouth Gala	Blue Helmets
4	Herne Strode Park Open Day	5 AB Bde Sqn
5-7	Southsea Show	5 AB Bde Sqn
7-11	Paignton Regatta	30 Sig Regt RIT
8-12	Colchester Brigade Week	19 Bde Sqn RIT
9-11	Dundee KAPE	White Helmets
9-14	Dundee KAPE	Training Group RIT
12-13	Shrewsbury Flower Show	White Helmets
14	Luton Appeal Day	White Helmets
16-19	Glasgow KAPE	Mobile Display Team
16-21	Glasgow Garden Festival	Training Group RIT
19-22	Shepton Mallet Mid Somerset Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
20-21	Bolton Show	White Helmets
23-25	Stafford Police Enterprise	Mobile Display Team
25	Gwent Monmouth Show	White Helmets
26	Tredegar Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
27	Poynton Show	White Helmets
27-28	Bognor Regis Show	Mobile Display Team
27-29	East Durham Show	Training Group RIT
28	Andover Para Regt Association	5 AB Bde Sqn
28-29	Mansfield Festival	Blue Helmets
28-29	Eye Carnival	White Helmets
29	Swansea Fete and Gala	30 Sig Regt RIT
29	East Grinstead Lions Fun Day	5 AB Bde Sqn

Key:
RIT Regimental Information Team
CG Catterick Garrison
RC Recruiting Caravan

FOLLOW THE DRUM

An exhibition of drums, drummers and drumming in the British Army is being staged at The National Army Museum from 16 June-18 September 1988. The Museum is situated at Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT and is open from Monday to Saturday 1000 hrs to 1730 hrs. Admission Free. Car Parking and Cafeteria.

'Follow the Drum' will include music and audio visual displays, and drums will be available to enable visitors to 'have a bash' themselves!

The exhibition will complement the 1988 Royal Tournament, whose theme this year is the drum.

If you would like to know more contact **Julian Humphrys** 01-730-0717 Ext 216.

8 INFANTRY BRIGADE HQ AND SIGNAL SQUADRON CHARITY WALK FOR DEAF CHILDREN

Ex Iron Feet was a sponsored walk from Stranraer via Newcastle to the Headquarters of the National Deaf Childrens Society at 45 Hereford Road, London, a distance of 530 miles. The exercise was a joint venture between members of 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and members of 1 Bn The Green Howards, all in aid of deaf children.

Team Members

WO1 Barry Brosnan	)
WO2 Bob Walker	)
CSgt Jim Foster	)1 Green Howards
Sgt Pete Brodigan	)
Pte Philip Richardson	)
SSgt Martin Leighfield	
Sgt Steve Walker	
Cpl Pete Schollick	
Cpl Steve Jackson	
LCpl Stu Nicholson	
Cpl Chris Hoggard	**RAOC**
Cpl Bruce Bennett	**REME**
Cpl Colin Byrne	**ACC**
Cpl Brian Chapman	**RCT**
LCpl Bill Dodd	**RPC**

The whole of the exercise was conceived and controlled by **Sgt Steve Walker**, who did a similar walk from Herford, West Germany to London in July 1981.

At 1430 hrs on 7 March **Maj Gen Alexander MBE**, the SOinC, set the walkers off from outside the Brigade Headquarters in Londonderry, on a dry but somewhat chilly day. this must have been the easiest part of the walk because once we reached the Brigade MT it was off with the uniform, on with the civvies and into the mini-buses for our journey to Larne to catch the 1930 ferry. At this point we would all like to thank Sealink, Scotland for the free return passage for all exercise members.

We arrived in Stranraer at approximately 2145 hrs. After finding the RMP TA Centre which no-one told us was an old church that had been converted into a Drill Hall, **CSgt Jim Foster** took the fish and chip order and went to find a chippy, as we could not find the kitchen. After stumbling about outside and on a roof, **WO2 Bob Walker** found the kitchen window upstairs which, needless to say, was locked. **Cpl Colin Byrne** was on his high horse by now because he had nowhere to cook the breakfast. It all turned out well in the end because one of the PSIs turned up at about 2330 hrs with the key which saved our bacon. After setting up our camp beds and finishing our exotic meal of fish and chips, we eventually got our heads down ready to start the walk next day, only to be woken up by **Cpl Pete Schollick** who sat bolt upright on his camp bed shouting in his sleep. I think a couple of boots on the back of his head put paid to that, as he did not do it again during the whole walk.

At 0600 hrs on the 8th we were, unwillingly, prised out of our green maggots by **CSgt Jim Foster** to face the pressures of the forthcoming day. After breakfast we loaded the admin vehicles with all our luggage (**CSgt Jim Foster** knows how a porter must feel now; anyone would think we were going on a six-month tour). At 0730 hrs **WO2 Bob Walker** and **Sgt Steve Walker** took to the road and helped to reduce the distance yet to be covered by a few thousand feet.

It worked out with four teams each of two men each team would cover 15 miles in three stages. By the way, if anyone would like to know what a never ending hill looks like then please contact **LCpl Bill Dodd** and **Pte Philip Richardson** as they got the big one—2.6 miles of it. **LCpl Bill Dodd** having travelled the road before by car, was laughing and joking with **SSgt Martin Leighfield** and **Cpl Brian Chapman** as to who was going to get the hill; as you can see it backfired on him. The admin party having gone ahead to the TA Centre in Dumfries set up all the camp beds and unloaded the luggage, **Cpl Brian Byrne** then prepared the evening meal. The walkers arrived at approximately 1830 hrs, having collected £75 en route.

On the third day after an O Group on Tuesday evening it was agreed that if instead of two people out on the road at the same time, only one person went out and did 2-3 mile stretches the daily 60 miles would be covered a lot faster. This proved to be very popular and meant we could spend longer in towns collecting money. During this stage our Chef, **Cpl Colin Byrne,** swopped places with **SSgt Martin Leighfield** so that he could take part in the walking. Please take note that we got **Cpl Colin Byrne** back early so that he could prepare the evening meal, no disrespect to **SSgt Martin Leighfield**, only it is the cook who gets paid for doing it. We stayed that night at the TA Centre in Hexham, sleeping in the miniature range.

Exercise Iron Feet
From Left to Right: Sgts Walker, Brodigan, Cpl Byrne, SSgt Leighfield, Cpl Hoggard, Pte Richardson, Cpls Bennett, Schollick, LCpl Dodd, Cpl Jackson, LCpl Nicholson, Cpl Chapman, CSgt Foster and WO2 Walker

The SOinC sees off Ex Iron Feet

After the lads had had their evening meal, **Pte Philip Richardson** decided to tell us that his mother was expecting us all for tea and a bite to eat. I am not going to repeat what **Cpl Colin Byrne** said to him. On route we collected £79.

Thursday 10th started with a two hour foot slog before getting on the transport for our visit to Newcastle Breweries. After the visit we were taken into the bar where we were presented with a Teddy Bear and a limited edition glass which was raffled off on our return to Londonderry. Also while at the Brewery, David McCreedy, from Newcastle United, presented **Sgt Steve Walker** with an autographed football which will be auctioned off along with the other footballs we have been given. The lads enjoyed the trip around the brewery but hated the bar part of it, (the free beer) as they all had one pint each and then went onto coke—they still had 50 miles to cover that day. **Cpl Pete Schollick** and **Pte Philip Richardson**, both Newcastle supporters were given a personal tour of the ground by **David McCreedy**. This made their day. The night was spent at the TA Centre, Stockton Road, Middlesbrough. On route we collected £210.65.

The next day took us through Middlesbrough, Darlington, Richmond and Catterick. We stayed the night in Catterick with 210 Sig Sqn thanks to **SSgt Dean Wood** who is Chief Clerk there. This part of the walk was magic as we had proper beds to sleep on complete with mattress although we still slept in our maggot sacks. At this stage **Cpl Colin Byrne** took time out to do a bit more walking as we had our meals in the Cookhouse at 210. That night a few of the lads went into Richmond wearing the sweatshirts we had had made by Interprint, which had the NDCS logo on and the Brigade Castle, which is the Castle of Richmond. This got us into some good conversations with the people of Richmond and a bit of money for the cause. Had we had some spare sweatshirts with us we could have made a fortune. Money collected on route was £198.

The 12 March started with one dead Sherpa van parked on Gaza Square. The accelerator cable having snapped (could this have been caused by the big feet of **Cpl Steve Jackson**)? **Cpl Bruce Bennett** and **Cpl Chris Hoggard** soon had the problem solved by having to go to Darlington to buy a new one. The lads lookled a bit shocked when they looked across the square in Gaza and saw the snow on the hills, having just travelled through Scotland and without seeing any. Mind you, that is Catterick for those that know it. The walkers finally set off somewhat late, passing through Thirsk, York and then on to Leeds. The night was spent at the TA Centre in Rotherham. **CSgt Jim Foster** and **Sgt Steve Walker** picked up an autographed football from Rotherham United, another one to add to our collection.

The following day we started at approximately 0800 hrs. The weather not too good and the lads not too dry, we all thought we had left the famous rain clouds back in sunny Londonderry. The walk that day took us through Wakefield, Rotherham, Chesterfield and on to Nottingham. The night was spent at 37 Sig Sqn TA Centre in Nottingham where we were made very welcome.

Our eighth day started with snow. The walk took us through Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicester and Market Harborough. The night was spent in the TA Centre Northampton. **LCpl Bill Dodd** enjoyued himself at Northampton as this was where he did his basic training, with the Royal Pioneer Corps. During our stay in Northampton, **LCpl Bill Dodd** told us that the best place to go for a drink was a pub called The Bear, near Woolworths. The walking must have gone to his head as it turned out that The Bear was nowhere near Woolworths, which was the other side of town. Talk about follow the bear.

On 15 March our route took us through Northampton, Milton Keynes, Dunstable, Luton and on to Harpenden. The night was spent with 201 Battery RA TA in Luton. This proved to be a good stop as there was a drill night on where we collected £76 in the bar, two other pubs and from the Royal British Legion.

The next day took us down through St Albans, Elstree, Edgware, Cricklewood, Kilburn and into 20 Sqn RCT at Regents Park Barracks. This was an easy bit as we had left ourselves only 24.3 miles to do that day. This way we could get all our personal admin done, ie, washing our sweatshirts, etc, before our arrival at NSCS Headquarters the following day. The final total collected on route was £1,023.

17 March—Day Eleven. The big day had arrived, we had approximately four miles left to walk from Regents Park Barracks to the Headquarters of the NDCS. **Colin Hancock** from the NDCS had been told that we would be marching down Hereford Road at exactly 1200 hrs so that various people could be there to meet us, of whom more later. At about three minutes to twelve we turned into Hereford Road led by **WO1 Barry Brosnan**, who sadly gave his last order in the Army as he is now in civvie street, by halting the team outside the NDCS and then falling us out. A moment I think he will always remember. Good luck to him in civvie street from all the team.

Col M. L. Jennings, the Regimental Colonel, was there to meet us on our arrival and **Lt Col (Retd) G. Oakley** and daughter **Sara**, (**Sgt Steve Walker**'s father-in-law and sister-in-law), the parents of **SSgt Martin Leighfield**, **Mr** and **Mrs Hawthorn**, mother and father-in-law of **Cpl Steve Jackson**, the Director of the NDCS, **Harry Clayton**, and a few other people.

After the shaking of hands we moved to the Conference Room where **Harry Clayton** made an official speech on behalf of the National Deaf Childrens Society and said that money we had raised will go towards a project that they are setting up which will help children who go deaf at a later stage of their lives. He handed over to **Col Jennings** who officially welcomed us on behalf of **Maj Gen Alexander MBE**, SOinC who, unfortunately, could not be there himself.

Col Jennings then presented everyone who took part with a certificate on behalf of the National Deaf Childrens Society, for outstanding work done to help deaf children. **Sgt Steve Walker** then presented the NDCS with a memento from all the team and **WO2 Bob Walker** presented a Green Howard plaque, followed by **Cpl Steve Jackson** who presented a Brigade plaque and last but not least **LCpl Stu Nicholson** who presented a (take note)! brand new sweatshirt.

After all the speeches we were taken next door to the pub where we were treated to a meal and a few drinks. May I say at this point that I would like to thank, on behalf of all the team members, the people who gave up their time to be there to meet us on our arrival and especially **Col Jennings** and the staff of the National Deaf Childrens Society for a wonderful reception—a moment we shall all treasure.

It is hoped that we will have raised nearly £3,000 by the time we have had the auction and raffle and collected in all the sponsor money. I would like to thank the Sgts Messes that have sponsored our venture and also everyone else that supported this worthwhile cause. If anyone would like to make a small donation they can do so by sending it to **Sgt Steve Walker**, 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, BFPO 807. Could any cheques sent please be made payable to **Central Bank 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the team members for giving me their support in this venture. Without them it would not have got off the ground let alone ended. Also to all the personnel both in the Brigade and in the Green Howards who helped in some way.

MISS BEING PART OF A TEAM?

SSAFA/FHS could help you as much as you help us.

If you served in the Forces for any length of time, you probably enjoyed being part of a team. If you've retired now, and miss that feeling, there's one simple way to get it back – become a SSAFA/FHS volunteer.

Service and ex-Service men and women, and their families can, and do, have all sorts of problems they need help with. Often ex-service personnel understand those problems better, but SSAFA/FHS volunteers come from all walks of life and it's certainly not essential to have a Forces' background.

We particularly need help in the inner cities so, if you'd like to be part of a worthwhile team and help people at the same time, write to John Gibson now.

SSAFA/FHS

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION/FORCES HELP SOCIETY

16–18 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Telephone: 01-222 9221.

A LINE TROOP VIEW

The first day of Ex Crested Eagle/Close Encounter as seen through the eyes of a 2Lt on post-Sandhurst attachment. **2Lt Bret Appleby**.

Ex Flying Falcon was still in my mind having been back in barracks for less than a week and here I am setting off in a snow shower for the first location; attached to Rear Corps Headquarters. I am in charge of the line troop of 22 Sig Regt and mine is the first packet to leave. This packet consists of the line troop and the admin vehicles making ten 4 tonners and two Landrovers in all—an easily managed packet, well that's what I've been told!

The first 20km were a doddle until my Landrover decided to call it a day and so I had to switch to a 4 tonner and without further problems we arrived at a deserted factory which was to be our first location. On looking around I found that others had arrived before me and they all assured me they had come by the correct route: nothing could convince me that I had got it wrong after all my training at Sandhurst. Why, it was only on Flying Falcon that I had gone on the correct route and all the other packets had taken a short cut. They must have done, how else could they arrive two and a half hours ahead of me? It was snowing quite hard and the topic of conversation switched from the choice of route and the folly of entrusting a convoy to an officer with a map, to how best to get the line laid in the quickest possible time before the Staff vehicles arrived.

Parts of the disused factory were now in use as storage areas and so not available to us and this resulted in the 'lineies' having to guess where some of the Staff circles would be parked and, being professional hard-working sort of chaps they got on with the job and finished just as the Corps Recce Officer arrived. After much discussion and gesticulation, he had to agree that the 'lineies' had done a good job. I was impressed by the 'lineies', who were obviously on top of the situation and knew what they were doing! The Corps Recce Officer was also obviously impressed as he shot away quite quickly looking for the DACOS to inform him of the new layout.

Eventually the Staff element arrived preceded by the Pioneer Platoon from HQ Regiment I (BR) Corps. These two were well on top of the situation and quickly realised that whilst the Staff vehicles were being parked in their allotted places it would be as well to sit down out of the way and discuss the new layout and how they were going to set up the security wire and which vehicles were now going to be left out. It didn't take long to make the decision and perhaps it was because I was standing there, listening and learning. Anyway my place of work is the Node Command and it was the circle to which this belongs that drew the short straw, we were to be outside the wire!

The Pioneers, armed with a definite plan, very quickly had the massive tent complex up, and the 'lineies' had installed Subsets, Wavell terminals, Burco boilers and all the other necessary equipment associated with a big Headquarters. This tent was surrounded by vehicles. The kitchen area was set up and we were ready for the Staff Officers to arrive.

When the Staff Officers arrived it was an impressive sight. They were accompanied by clerks, watchkeepers, advisors and other people whose function I can only guess at. I felt sorry for them all as coming out of the sunlight into a dimmed factory must be quite difficult. They kept bumping into each other and dropping their camp-beds, and peering round mumbling something that sounded like 'where's my bedroom' but I am sure I was mistaken. Surely they were fired with the same enthusiasm as me on our first day of my first Staff exercise?

Anyway, quite soon the part of the factory that used to be the office was taken over and assigned to various elements of the Headquarters as sleeping accommodation and the Exercise got off to a good start. I must admit to feelings of pride at the way the 'lineies' kept out of the way until they were needed—true professionals—and I am their OC!

EXPEDITION 'JATATE TUMBLE'

Six canoeists from the Royal Military College of Science, one of whom was **Lt A. G. Ross**, set out over Christmas 1987 in search of the white waters of Southern Mexico. Few British canoeists have paddled in Mexico and little information is available so the planning relied on a few vague details gathered from America leaving most to reconnaissance. The trip therefore held a testing combination of logistics, challenging ungraded white water and arduous jungle remoteness.

An RAF flight was taken to Belize where a van was hired. The first hurdle to cross was the Mexican border as to our dismay we were at first refused entry. Since the border official did not speak English and we did not speak much Spanish, it took a while to find out why. Eventually we understood that they required written authority for us to drive the hire vehicle. We actually had this but since it was not in Spanish they could not read it. Luckily the Belizian customs officials were sympathetic, writing out an authorisation letter and even stamping it with their passport stamp. It was totally worthless but it looked impressive on official paper and the Mexicans let us through.

We were now to find out what Mexico has to offer, and in preparation were armed with the world's stock of toilet rolls.

In four weeks a large part of Southern Mexico was explored, covering around 3,500 miles. The first region was the State of Chiapas, a remote area of subtropical jungle. Several large rivers run through the area including the Rio Jatate. We hoped to find some accessible stretches of the river to paddle; however, this was not possible as tracks could only be found to meet the river in a couple of places where the water was found to be flat. Unfortunately the group did not have the experience or the time to commit themselves to the river for further recce. Little was known other than that part of the river has been run by Americans, and it flows at some point through steep canyons with several technical portages requiring ropes. Without detailed maps we could not find these good sections in the time available.

By now travelling on rough roads was taking its toll and 'truck drivers bottom' was evident. So it was decided to take a coastal route in the hope of finding some surf and break the journey. The boys were not disappointed this time as the Pacific Ocean demonstrated its power and ability to eat our Mirage canoes. 'The surf was up' as they say in surfspeak, so a couple of days were spent practising Mirage aerobatics. The main technique to be mastered was to prevent your body being ripped from the canoe while being 'washing machined'.

The Pacific Ocean surf

The team and its support crew
The team: Lt Andy Marsh RE (Leader), Lt Mark Munday REME, Lt Alistair Ross, PO Paul Bathgate RAF, OCdt Angus Ballard, SSgt Chris Pascoe RE (Dover)

Yak decks were the secret weapon here. One Mirage folded, its occupant being lucky to escape with only bruised legs.

After this welcome break several further areas were explored. The State of Veracruz proved to have numerous excellent rivers, some being of alpine character, in complete contrast to the Chiapas region. Time was wasted recceing rivers that proved not to be worthwhile. However, lots of good technical grade III/IV was paddled.

There is great potential in the wet season for an endless number of rivers giving higher grades of water. One river was particularly interesting. We paddled from its source which was a series of springs running down several small waterfalls into a beautiful blue pool from which the river flowed. At first it was steep and narrow, taking sharp turns through thick vegetation, and gradually increasing in size along its way.

The landscape varies greatly from region to region, from lush tropical vegetation in mountainous areas, to sparse, arid, almost prairie type land. **Chris** and **Angus** could not resist one particularly large lump of rock and put up an HVS 5a. Climbing equipment was taken with us in case it was required to get into or out of canyons.

Ancient Aztec ruins are of particular interest to the culture vultures, and are a significant national feature. We visited a site at Palenque in the north of the Chiapas. Local Mayan Indians sell handicrafts and are noted for their ancient cultures. They are distinguished by their white robes and the tradition of not cutting their hair; however, they wear Swiss watches and take Access cards! This area has many rivers and at Aqua Azul we found a series of spectacular waterfalls. At this point we put down the paddles and picked up the cameras. An exciting time was spent running a short series of small drops with the loud thunder of the large suicidal falls in the background.

When stopping and camping near villages locals often warned us of the dreaded 'Bandidos'. We did not have the misfortune to meet any and decided it must be a great Mexican legend. The people we met were very friendly and hospitable, and with a few words of pidgin Spanish along with our van loaded high with six canoes, we provided much entertainment for the locals.

By this stage in the trip the varied diet was taking its toll. The rivers may have been up to grade IV, the driving grade V, but use of toilet rolls was definitely grade VI!

Starting from the source of the river

New Years' Eve was spent camping next to a small village by the Rio Antigua which we had been paddling for several days. Everyone appeared to be out in the streets celebrating and we were warmly welcomed. Several were dressed in costume, wearing masks and were running in and out of all the houses chasing the old year away and welcoming the new year in. A large group of children walked through the streets carrying candles singing hymns. The occasion was memorable, especially the tequila.

The trip was very worthwhile and successful. Many areas were investigated and rivers paddled. Hundreds more excellent rivers of all grades lie waiting to be run. Unique cultures and landscapes make a tour of the country extremely rewarding. With the exception of vehicle hire the cost of living is cheap, so your money goes a long way.

Thanks go to all the people who helped in planning and equipment.

We should like to thank 'Wave Sports' plc for their generous financial support which contributed to the success of the expedition and a most interesting adventure for the participants.

ON PARADE

This picture taken by Eamon J. McCabe and published by courtesy of The Daily Telegraph shows **John Maher**, Yeoman Clerk at The Tower of London, in yet another role.

Is our ex RSM, 36 Sig Regt (V) contemplating a third career?

243 SIGNAL SQUADRON WINS UKLF WOMENS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Report by Pte Tanya Smallridge

Following its success in the South West District Championships the Squadron, under its recognised amalgamation, attended the above championship at Aldershot on 24, 25 and 26 February 1988.

The overall plan was for each team to play two preliminary matches to decide which was to play in the main final. Our first was against Bovington, we won this convincingly. CAD Kineton, that we had beaten in the South West District Competition, failed to turn up so we qualified for the final by default.

In the other preliminary rounds Bicester and Lisburn had won through. The final was to be a three way competition, each team playing the other two. The overall winners would be decided firstly by victories and, in the event of a tie, by the number of baskets scored.

The first match was us against Bicester. Nervous tension, a few too many sherberts the night before and a fine performance from the opposition hampered our start. However, physical effort, team spirit and determination paid off and we won by 96—41.

Later that day Bicester took on Lisburn in a close, nail-biting finish and against the odds beat them. Lisburn needed to defeat us by at least 58 points to prevent us winning the championship.

Both teams played hard and, whilst we maintained a slight lead, neither team dominated the match. At one stage Lisburn even looked like closing the gap. However, a series of tactical changes brought about the desired effect and, following a series of determined attacks from **Pte 'Kerni' Kernaghan** and **LCpl Lee Bushby** coupled with a tight defence, marshalled by **LCpl Louise Elliot**, our lead gradually increased. **Cpl Lynn Hickling** and **Pte Charlie Chan** played their part in linking up with our impressive attackers. Spectators, **Ptes 'Ash' Ashby, Jill Wakerley, Tracey Kerry** and **Lt Sionnadh McLean** were just as hyped up. At the final whistle we had won the match, 72 points to 26, thus maintaining our all winning record.

The team now looks forward to 25 March 1988 when we meet the BAOR champions in the Army final.

The Army Basketball Champions of 1988
Standing L to R: Lt Sionnadh McLean, Pte Tanya Smallridge, LCpl Lee Bushby, Ptes Charlie Chan, Kerni Kernaghan, Ash Ashby.
Kneeling L to R: Pte Tracey Kerry, Cpl Lynn Hickling, LCpl Louise Elliott, Pte Jill Wakerley

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT WINS ARMY BASKETBALL

by WO1 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade

This season has been a highly successful one for the Regimental Team. The team has come through unbeaten in all league and cup games culminating in winning the Army Basketball Championship.

The Cup Trial began with the RCZ stage, 30-31 January during which the Regiment swept aside the opposition, scoring 423 points in 3 games.

Next came the BAOR Pool Stage, where we met 7 Sig Regt, 26 Engr Regt and the Royal Hussars, winning all three games, with a total of 293 points.

3-4 March saw the Regiment in the BAOR Final Stages, defeating 3 RHA 81—67 in the semi-final and 26 Engr Regt 82—64 in the Final to retain the BAOR Championship.

And so to the Army Final staged in UK at Waterbeach, against last year's adversaries 39 Engr Regt. In an extremely well played and hard fought game, we managed to reverse the result of last year to run out winners 65—60, despite losing our Captain **WO2 (SQMS) Tim Brown** half way through the second half. However **Tim** took over coaching from the side line calling the timeouts and substitutions to perfection.

Army Basketball Cup being presented to team captain WO2 (SQMS) Tim Brown ACC by the President of Army Basketball, Brig H. J. Hickman

ARMY CHAMPIONS

Cpl Eddie Williams won the Warrior Trophy for the game's most outstanding player. Scorers in the Final: **WO2 Tim Brown** 18, **Sgt Fred Tedby** 16, **LCpl Stan Budd** 11, **Cpl Eddie Williams** 10, **Sig Mark Reeves** 7, **SSgt Steve Roberts** 2, and **Sgt Nev Smikle** 1. The other valued members of the team are **Sgts John Hiorns, 'Chalky' White, Sig Chris Webb, Cpl Neill Haycroft** and **Sig 'Taff' Davies.**

Our team is also known as the Prudential Krefeld Shooters, which we believe makes us the first sponsored Basketball team.

Prior to the season **Mrs Mary Brown** (Tim Brown's better half) suggested the team members seek sponsors for points scored for charity. This idea was taken up and on a scale of pfennigs for points scored in all Cup games, we have pledges for in excess of DM 1500. The exact total is not available at time of going to print.

— Movements —

Officers

APRIL 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj (QM) J. G. P. Akehurst	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt R. S. Appleton	200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Col B. L. Belton	Sangcom
Capt P. A. Brown	School of Signals
Lt R. C. Cotterell	RAMC Trg Gp, Aldershot
Capt S. C. Dexter	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt R. M. Dobson	22 Sig Regt
Lt Col G. N. Donaldson	30 Sig Regt
Lt R. J. Duffy	38 Sig Regt (V)
Capt M. B. Dunn	238 (London) Sig Sqn
Lt J. A. Egan	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt R. O. N. Evans	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt (TOT) S. D. Farrow	HQ NI
Brig S. G. M. Gordon	HQ 12 Sig Bde
Maj J. A. Grierson	HQ Northag
Capt R. Hails	34 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col A. W. de V. Hunt	HQ Northag Sig Support Gp
Capt T. G. Inshaw	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt (Tfc) E. C. Jones	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Maj D. J. Lawson	DSS (AD)
Capt G. R. Leach	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. W. T. McComb	School of Signals
Capt (Tfc) F. C. McLoughlin	240 Sig Sqn
Capt (QM) J. M. N. Newman	32 Sig Regt (V)
Capt (Tfc) J. T. Nichols	School of Signals
Capt M. J. Perry	HS 30 Sig Regt
Capt M. E. Pincott	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt P. A. Pratley	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col (QM) F. D. Rogers	School of Signals
Maj (Tfc) J. M. Ross	HQ Berlin
Capt D. E. Rowlinson	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col S. M. Siddall	11 Sig Regt
Capt R. F. Strawbridge	13 Sig Regt
Maj N. A. Swainson	7 Sig Regt
Capt N. F. Thompson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. W. Todd	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt C. H. Turner	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc) J. O. S. Vannan	233 Sig Sqn
Brig T. H. Wheawell	DSS (AD)
Capt S. P. Windsor-Brown	HS School of Signals

MAY 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt A. Aitken	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj B. J. Barton-Ancliffe	BDS Washington
Lt I. J. Bradshaw	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. G. Brand	School of Signals
Maj (TOT) J. V. Bridgeman	251 Sig Sqn
2Lt M. C. Burke	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col C. P. Conlon	36 Sig Regt (V)
Maj J. McD. Edgar	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj (TOT) A. B. Gould	HQ 2 Sig Bde
2Lt G. R. Grant	249 Sig Sqn
Lt Col H. Grenville-Jones	RSRE
Lt G. H. Henschel	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt D. P. Hix	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc) C. T. Honor	13 Sig Regt
Capt D. Hornsby	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt W. G. House	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj B. M. M. Jackson	HQ BFFI
Capt R. J. Kinniard	BR Outward Bound Centre Norway
Maj M. Lithgow	DSS (AD)
Capt G. R. Mason	School of Signals
Capt S. J. May	HS 8 Sig Regt
2Lt L. J. Mitchell	22 Sig Regt
2Lt R. L. Munro	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (QM) J. R. Nicholl	11 Sig Regt
Lt G. R. Norton	School of Signals
2Lt E. J. C. Pascoe	21 Sig Regt
2Lt S. M. Payne	7 Sig Regt
Capt T. W. Pender-Johns	School of Signals
2Lt A. D. J. Picknell	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt N. A. W. Pope	School of Signals
Capt (Tfc) S. Pratt	239 Sig Sqn
2Lt B. M. Pulverman	16 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) R. J. Sheldon	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Capt R. G. C. Sparshatt	School of Signals
Col M. C. Spence	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt J. J. Stanley	Army School of Recruiting
Maj (Tfc) L. G. H. Storey	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Capt D. J. Vardy	233 Sig Sqn

WOs and SNCOs

APRIL 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) J. F. Hanifin	RSA
AWO1 (YofS) K. J. Graham	22 Sig Regt
AWO2 C. R. Blackburn	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 I. C. Gillett	8 Sig Regt
SSgt A. Arbuckle	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. M. Garn	7 Sig Regt
SSgt M. K. W. Richards	28 Sig Regt
SSgt W. B. Sanderson	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt S. P. Simpson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. G. Smith	22 Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs

ASSgt B. G. Appleyard	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt G. S. Davidson	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt A. C. Giles	37 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt S. D. Kelly	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Anderson	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. W. Andrew	1 Glosters
Sgt D. Campbell	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. R. Dixon	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. A. Egan	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Finister	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Fitzmaurice	9 Sig Regt
Sgt C. M. Green	BG Trainer (UK)
Sgt G. S. Guy	633 Sig Tp
Sgt J. W. Hagger	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt T. Hayes	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. R. H. Hems	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Hitchen	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt M. S. Holden	School of Signals
Sgt C. E. Hook	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Hoy	JCUFI
Sgt S. Hughes	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. Hunt	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. G. Hurge-Mogg	FSS Coldblow Lane
Sgt P. F. Irvins	School of Signals
Sgt R. G. Johnson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. Johnson	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Messenger	School of Signals
Sgt R. A. Powell	HQ AFSouth (BAE)
Sgt S. R. Preston	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt E. G. Richards	2 CTT (Northampton)
Sgt A. M. Richardson	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. Scott	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. W. Scott	633 Sig Tp
Sgt R. W. Short	QG Sig Regt
Sgt L. M. B. Watkins	36 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt A. J. Butler	640 Sig Tp
ASgt A. C. Cox	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. P. J. Fitzpatrick	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt A. G. Mann	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt R. Mason	11 Sig Regt
ASgt A. J. Norris	30 Sig Regt
ASgt P. J. Pett	8 Sig Regt
ASgt J. Torrie	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt A. M. Wright	8 Sig Regt

MAY 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) T. C. Spicer	School of Signals
WO1 A. D. Sykes	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) F. W. Gardner	Comms and Sy Gp UK
AWO1 P. D. Manger	13 Sig Regt
AWO1 C. Redman	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) D. M. Gunn	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. J. Bogie	MOD (CGS)
SSgt D. Bradley	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Bull	11 Sig Regt Depot
SSgt D. C. Leggat	642 Sig Tp
SSgt (FofS) R. S. Morris	3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt D. L. Randall	13 Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. Richmond	Comms and Sy Gp UK
SSgt R. S. Shaw	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. Smith	30 Sig Regt
SSgt D. R. Thompson	28 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Vince	Comms and Sy Gp UK
ASSgt K. L. Bennett	Comms and Sy Gp UK
ASSgt P. J. McElwee	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. J. Plant	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt F. E. Small	Comms and Sy Gp UK
ASSgt D. W. Smith	NCS (BAE) Latina
Sgt I. L. Barnes	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Sgt S. Barrington	50 Msl Regt
Sgt B. Briggs	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. W. Brown	238 (London) Sig Sqn
Sgt M. K. Brown	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. D. Callaghan	1 RHA
Sgt D. Cullen	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Dengate	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. B. George	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. M. Gladwin	ACIO Finchley
Sgt H. R. Griffin	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. P. Iverson	Berlin Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Johnson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. D. Leyman	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. H. Lowe	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Matthews	4 Sig Gp
Sgt P. Meadows	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. McDonald	633 Sig Tp
Sgt I. H. McKittrick	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt G. P. Rhodes	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. P. Shead	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. T. W. Steele	Berlin Sig Regt
Sgt A. F. Suward	14 Sig Regt
Sgt M. E. Sutcliffe	QG Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Thomas	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. G. Webb	ACIO Luton
ASgt P. W. Collins	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt P. J. Cotterill	SHAPE Sig Gp
ASgt A. S. Hilton	JSSU
ASgt F. W. Jones	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt R. Mason	11 Sig Regt
ASgt D. S. Shields	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1988.

In memory of Maj Gen A. J. Woodrow MBE	£195.00
56 Div OCA Branch	£ 73.00
RSA Lincoln Branch	£ 50.00
S. W. Crewdon	£ 50.00
RSA Bedford Branch	£ 25.10
RSA Cotswolds Branch	£ 20.00
In memory of Maj H. Mc D. Chapman	£ 20.00
Mrs C. S. T. Villiers-Smith	£ 10.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
G. W. Cook	£ 4.11
Miscellaneous	£ 5.06
	£462.27

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1988:

RSA Shrewsbury	£450.00
In memory of Cpl T. Dowse	£225.63
4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards	£120.81
Mrs F. Stanley Charitable Trust	£100.00
C. E. Henderson	£100.00
St George's Garrison Church, Bielefeld	£ 67.14
RSA Brighton	£ 50.00
W. G. Robinson	£ 20.00
In memory of Maj Gen A. J. Woodrow MBE	£ 15.00
K. J. Canney	£ 10.00
V. Corrie	£ 10.00
R. L. Lawrence	£ 3.00
Miscellaneous	£ 10.65
	£1,182.23

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job Centres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Job Centres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1987-31 March 1988 the Association assisted 10,269 men and women with their resettlement and placed 5,017 in employment. Of those placed 2,321 were men and women from the Army and 243 were from your Corps.

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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

Evans—Maj R. H. B. Evans—died 12 October 1987.
Gonthier—ex LCpl P. A. Gonthier—died March 1988.
Green—Capt N. Green—served 1930-47—died 22 December 1987.
Holden—ex Sig J. W. Holden—served 1931-36—died 23 April 1988.
McDonald—WO2 I. McDonald—died 26 March 1988.
Mogridge—Capt K. F. J. Mogridge—died 15 March 1988.
Robertson—Maj W. G. Robertson—served 1928-1963—died 23 March 1988.
Wheeler—Mrs C. A. Wheeler, widow of Brig C. G. Wheeler—died 13 March 1988.
Woodrow—Maj Gen A. J. Woodrow—served 1939-68—died 16 March 1988.
Woods—Maj J. Woods—served 1937—68—died 29 March 1988.

OBITUARIES

Brunton—Maj (QM) W. Brunton. Billy Brunton died on 24 March 1988 after a short illness. He enlisted in RE Signals and was trained as a Morse Telegraphist with the Post Office in Liverpool. He later transferred to the Indian Signals, and was commissioned Quartermaster during the 1939-45 War. He was awarded the Burma Star and campaign medals of the PAI Force.

On returning home in 1947, he served with the Scottish Command and 3 Training Regiment Catterick. He was awarded the MSM before retiring in 1957.

Dowse—Cpl T. W. Dowse. It is with much sadness and deep regret that we report the tragic death of **Terry Dowse** in a traffic accident on Friday, 25 March 1988.

Terry enlisted as a Junior Paratrooper on 25 March 1985. Plagued by a recurring medical injury he was unable to attend P Company and joined the Royal Signals on 21 October 1985. He underwent basic training at 11 Sig Regt during October and November 1985, and continued his training at 8 Sig Regt for a further 10 months before being posted to 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) in October 1986 on promotion to LCpl.

Terry quickly proved himself to be an excellent Radio Technician and a very professional soldier which warranted his rapid promotion to Corporal in September 1987. During his time in the unit he had the distinction of being in the Squadron Teams that won the AMF NATO Challenge Cup, March and Shoot competitions, in Turkey, Denmark and Norway.

He was a very keen sportsman who regularly represented the unit at most sports, and was an excellent angler who took part in the Army Championships in 1987.

Terry was a single soldier who will be remembered most for his effervescent cheerfulness in the face of all adversities. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues. We send our heartfelt sympathy to all members of his family.

Jennings—Maj Mick Jennings died on 22 April 1988 after a long, painful and bravely borne illness.

He was born in Grimsby on 13 August 1938 and at the age of 15 decided to follow in the footsteps of his elder brother, **Henry**, and joined Royal Signals as a boy soldier on 2 December 1953.

After completing his training at 6 (Boys) Training Regiment at Beverley and being trained in the trade of Teleprinter Operator, he joined the UK COMCAN Sig Regt (later re-designated 14 Sig Regt) based in Gloucester. In October 1959 he was posted to France for service in 228 Sig Sqn (SHAPE) prior to moving to BAOR and 16 Sig Regt. During his stay in Krefeld he served on a four month attachment with 29 Sig Regt then based in Nicosia. He also reclassified as a Commcen Operator prior to being posted in July 1962 for a 12 month tour with Afnorth in Kolsas, Norway. In August 1963 he returned to BAOR on posting to 12 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn where he remained until May 1966. **Mick** was then posted to the Joint Communications Unit in Borneo on active service between May and October 1966. For the next two years he served with 249 Sig Sqn in Singapore. He returned to the United Kingdom in November 1968 when he joined 30 Sig Regt in Blandford. During this tour **Mick** spent six months on attachment with 644 Sig Tp (UNFICYP) in Cyprus. In September 1970 he returned to 14 Sig Regt based this time in Worcester where he spent a couple of temporary duty attachments to Kenya and Ascension Island. In May 1973 he was posted, on promotion to WO2, to 9 Sig Regt in Cyprus where he took up the appointment of RQMS. On 2 December 1975 he achieved his goal of being promoted WO1 and was appointed RSM of 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt then based in Bunde, West Germany. Whilst in this appointment he was selected for a commission and was subsequently appointed to a Special Regular Commission on 5 June 1978. For his first commissioned appointment **Mick** joined 22 Sig Regt, to fill the post of MTO in the rank of Captain. It was not long before he was selected for a Quartermaster commission in June 1982 he was appointed QM of 29 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn based in Lisburn, where he remained for two years prior to being posted to 259 Sig Sqn in Cyprus. It was during his Cyprus tour that **Mick** became ill causing his medical evacuation to the United Kingdom. He was highly respected and liked by all ranks with whom he came into contact. He will be remembered for the warmth of his nature, his loyalty to his friends and to those who worked for him, and his enthusiasm in everything he undertook.

Mick will be greatly missed by all his many colleagues and friends in the Corps and our deepest sympathy goes to **June**, and their children **Taryn, Michelle, Susan, Michael** and his six grandchildren.

Marples—Brig M. (Mike) Marples OBE was born on 14 October 1938. Educated at Kingham High School, Oxfordshire and Welbeck College (five entry) he was commissioned from RMA Sandhurst into the Corps in June 1959.

Having completed the Q Course in 1960 he was posted to 3 Div Sig Regt (STRATCO) from where he volunteered for service with The Trucial Oman Scouts Sig Sqn. He took up the appointment of 2IC at a relatively young age and soon developed the taste for unconventional soldiering that was with him throughout his career. But this had to wait for a while since his next appointments in 11 Bde Sig Sqn in BAOR, as an Instructor and College Adjutant at RMA Sandhurst and as a Staff Captain in MOD required a steady hand and more conventional approach to life in the Army. From this firm base and excellent performance **Mike** was selected for the Army Staff Course at Camberley and on successful completion returned to regimental duty in Germany as the Squadron Commander of 12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron. It was here that **Mike** truly made his mark as a most successful commander and leader of men. He was able to draw the very best out of his soldiers who supported him unfailingly; the Squadron to this day holds the record for the number of moves of location on Ex Flying Falcon in 1972, some 21 in all.

Mike returned to UK to take up the appointment of Brigade Major of the Training Group which was followed by attendance at NDC Latimer and thence on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel as Commander Royal Signals in Northern Ireland. Again his outstanding ability to get the best out of his men ensured a time in the Province when the Corps was held in the highest regard. After his tour he was selected to remain another two years in Northern Ireland working for the Northern Ireland Office, his four years there culminating in the well deserved award of the OBE and promotion to Colonel when he took up the appointment of Comd 1 Sig Group. During his tour he oversaw the deployment of Corps personnel in support of the Falklands campaign and in 1984 he became the first holder of the new appointment of Regimental Colonel but his stay in this most important post was all too brief for promotion to Brigadier followed in 1986 when he was appointed Comd 11 Sig Bde in Liverpool.

Mike's tragic death on 14 March 1988 when he was at the pinnacle of a most distinguished career came as a terrible blow to us all. Instinctively our deepest and heartfelt sympathy goes to **Denise** and their two sons who had provided much love and support to **Mike**. We share their grief, mourn the loss of such a vital and well loved husband, father and comrade, and offer our heartfelt sympathy and support in their bereavement.

Skitt—ex WO1 (RSM) G. F. Skitt. It is with regret that we announce the death of **George Skitt** on 10 April, aged 92 years. Enlisting in the Corps in India he served from 1923 until 1945. He became a life member of the Association in 1928. A keen member of the Royal British Legion and the Royal Naval Association, **George Skitt** remained active all his life. We send our sympathy to his widow, **Betty**.

Smith—Maj (Retd) P. D. Peter Smith was born in 1944 and educated at Welbeck and RMA Sandhurst. He was commissioned into Royal Signals in 1965. After attending 59 Q course at Catterick he was posted to 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt followed by a tour at 11 Sig Regt where he met his future wife, **Judy**, whom he married in 1969 while attending No 15 TE course at Blandford. On completing this course he served as technical adjutant of 9 and 13 Sig Regts. Finally after a tour at GCHQ he retired in 1977 to work in the electronics industry. He resumed some soldiering duties part-time when he took up an appointment with 71 Sig Regt (V) in 1980, and in 1982 transferred to 39 Sig Regt (V) to command 5 Squadron at Banbury. Pressure of work in his business forced him to give up his active TA connection late in 1983.

The majority of his second career was with Systems Production Limited (SPL) where he was the marketing director. In the last two years he established and became managing director of a successful sister company, SYPRO, which is involved in advising on computer security.

Peter was a very intelligent and capable engineering officer, and a fine and respected manager in his specialist field in industry. He was devoted to his family but still found time to enjoy playing the piano, and the organ at his local church.

He fought a year long battle against illness very bravely, showing remarkable cheerfulness and fortitude. The end came with a suddeness that was not expected and **Peter** died at home on 14 April with his wife **Judy** and children **Katryn** and **Daniel** close by.

Peter will be greatly missed by his colleagues both in the Corps and in industry, and by his family to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

CAN YOU HELP?

Mr K. B. French would like to obtain copies of *The Wire* published from 1971 to 1977 inclusive. If anyone has these issues and is willing to part with them kindly contact **Mr French** at 46 Barnwood Road, Gloucester G12 0SG.

FOR SALE

Sergeants Mess Dress—Jacket 38-40in chest, Waistcoat 38-40in chest, Trousers 34-35in waist, Golf Ball Shirt, 15½in. £50. **Mr J. Masson**, Tel: 0206-46342 (after 19.30 hrs).

Mess Kit—To fit 6ft 1in, 36in waist, 39in chest. Very good condition. £55. Write **Mr B. J. Alway**, 83 Wellington Hill West, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

PERSONAL

Capt (Retd) G. Park would like his friends to know that he is now following a second career as the Proprietor of Pottergate Guest House, 4 Pottergate, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4AB. Tel: (0748) 3826. He will be pleased to welcome them when they are in the area.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A RETIRED OFFICER GRADE 3 IN ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE

A vacancy for an RO3 will occur in September 1988.

The post, that of RO3 (Manning), deals with Co-ordination of Career Advice, Promotion Boards and Target Structures (a detailed job description can be obtained from **Maj R. Adamson**, Glasgow Mil 2350). It is a most interesting job with a high degree of job satisfaction, and is also, of course, an ideal opportunity to continue your links with the Corps.

A lot of nonsense is spoken about living in Glasgow but the city has changed dramatically over the last few years. It is home to the British Garden Festival this year and will be the European City of Culture in 1990. There are many varied things to do in and around the city and housing is much cheaper in Glasgow than in comparable cities in the South. The city centre has many more 'green areas' and suberb shopping facilities which are improving daily, and, of course, there are the Highlands and Islands on the doorstep. In the experience of all of us, Glasgow is, indeed, a nice place to live.

Applications should be made to MOD(CM(A)2), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

REUNIONS

DENBURY, NEWTON ABBOT, JUNIOR LEADERS ROYAL SIGNALS REUNION

The triennial Reunion in and around Newton Abbot on 23 and 24 September 1988. The programme will be similar to that of 1985 in that there will be three functions: on Friday evening 23 September, Saturday 24 September at midday and in the evening. Two venues will be repeated, that is the Watts Blake and Bearne Social Club who entertained us very well last time and HM Prison at Channings Wood in their Officers' Mess where the caterer is **Roy Carpenter**, ex Army Physical Training Corps at Denbury. The third venue has yet to be decided and the full programme of events will be circulated to those who attended last year or who at least were interested in attending.

All enquiries should be addressed to: **Sam Ward**, 56 Seymour Road, Newton Abbot, South Devon. Telephone: Newton Abbot 52101, Day Telephone: Exeter 51056 or **Lt Col Bob Peake**, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, Devon. Telephone Exeter: 412758 or Exeter Military 2451.

Some accommodation has been reserved in bed and breakfast hotels for anyone who may require it.

PARACHUTE AND AIRBORNE SIGNALS REUNION—1/2 JULY 1988

Airborne Forces Weekend, 1/2 July 1988 should see a large reunion of ex-members of Airborne Forces in Montgomery Lines, Aldershot. All ex-members of Parachute and Airborne Signals Units are cordially invited to attend the general festivities and especially the Lanyard Club at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, which will be open from Friday 1 July at 1900 hrs. More details are available from **Capt Dick Hamilton** at the above address or by telephone 0252-24431 Ext 4547.

30TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

This year sees the 30th Anniversary of the formation of 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. To commemorate this occasion it is intended to hold a parade and lunch which past members of the Squadron are invited to attend. This will take place at Goojerat Barracks, Colchester on Friday 15 July 1988. For further information please contact the Adjutant on Colchester Military Extension 2737 or the Chief Clerk on Extension 2744.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS CORPS DINNER EVENING

A Corps WOs and SNCOs Dinner Evening is to be held on 12 October 1988 in the HQ Sergeants' Mess, Helles Barracks, Catterick.

It is expected that the allocation will be three per major and two per minor unit, with overnight accommodation available on Tuesday evening.

Individuals who have not received a letter and wish to attend should contact:- **WO1 (RSM) H. C. Britton**, 11 Sig Regt, Helles Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 4HH. Tel: Catterick Military 3704 on extension 3715.

THE NATIONAL EX-PRISONER-OF-WAR ASSOCIATION

The National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association first Annual Reunion will be held at the Ladbroke Holiday Centre, Middleton-on-Sea (Nr Bognor Regis). This holiday complex has been booked from Friday 21 October to Monday 24 October 1988.

A church parade will be held on Sunday 23 October and interested organisations are cordially invited to honour the parade by the presence of their Standards. For further details of this first Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association weekend reunion send a stamped addressed envelope to: National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association Reunion Secretary, **Mr C. Jago**, 72 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HE. Telephone: (0722) 333599.

CORPS CHALLENGES RAF AT CATTERICK

Representatives from the Corps and RAF Support Command Signals will be meeting this year at Catterick on 17 June 1988 to compete against each other in a variety of sports including Cricket, Golf, Tennis and Swimming. A sailing match is also included in the competition but this will take place on a separate date and venue.

This annual event has been taking place for many years but is held at Catterick only in alternate years. Any Corps personnel in the area are cordially invited to attend and support our teams in what promises to be an exciting day of competition. Anyone who wishes to receive a programme should write to Secretary Royal Signals Games Club at:- HQ Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, Scotton Road, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3JS.

THE SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES SIGNALS

If you have served in Oman, with what is now SAF Signals, please read the Appeal published on page 260.

CORPS DATES

CORPS LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be held at the Headquarters Mess, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, on Saturday 18 June 1988 at 1200 for 1300 hrs. Dress: Lounge suit.

The cost is £10 which includes pre-luncheon drinks and the cost of wines at the table.

All Royal Signals officers both regular and territorial, serving or retired and those who have served or are serving with the Corps in the ATS or WRAC are eligible to attend, as are spouses and grown up children. The widows of Regular officers are invited as guests of the Corps. As far as possible invitations are sent directly to widows, but any reader who is aware of a widow not having received an invitation is asked to notify the Regimental Secretary of the widow's name and address. Private guests may also be invited.

Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.

HM THE QUEEN'S PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** may attend the Garden Party on Tuesday 19 July 1988.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date are asked to notify the Regimental Secretary 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 Colonel-in-Chief.

ROYAL SIGNALS BOARDSAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Royal Signals Boardsailing Championships are to be held at Browndown Camp, Gosport on 20-24 June 1988. Further particulars may be obtained from **Capt P. J. Filby**, Blandford Mil 2411.

BOOK REVIEW

'ANZIO BEACHHEAD. DIARY OF A SIGNALLER'. an Artillery signaller's autobiographical story of the Italian campaign from Reggio di Calabria to Lake Garda, with emphasis on Anzio. 145 pages, with illustrations by Tom Roe. Forward by Sir Harry Secombe CBE. Printed by Higham Press. Price £5.50 including postage and packaging. Obtainable from: **T. Roe**, 96 Station Road, Pilsley, Nr Chesterfield S45 8BH. Tel: Ripley 872435.

LETTERS

From: Lt Col (Retd) W. C. Lombard

Dear Sir,

With reference to the 'unique record', of **Harry Illingworth** and son **John** (7 Sig Regt notes, March 1988 issue) I am afraid I will have to disillusion them, which is a shame, especially since I spent six years of my service with the distinguished 7 Sig Regt.

The fact is that Royal Signals has never been without a **Lombard** from my family.

My late father (**Wally** senior) after serving in the Royal Flying Corps and then re-badging as Royal Air Force, joined the Royal Engineering Signal Service in 1919 and re-badged once again on the formation of the Corps in 1920. He retired from 3 TR at Catterick in 1947.

After basic military training in 1944 I joined the Corps in January 1945 and retired in October 1981.

My eldest son **David** joined the Corps in 1970 and is still serving. Thus, if my arithmetic is correct, we have an unbroken record of 68 years and have between us contributed 81 years service to the Corps. We rest our case!

On a slightly different tack, I was interested to see the photograph of the 1942 Boys Company Intake (January 1988 issue) because that photograph is the first tangible evidence I have ever seen of the existence of another **Lombard** in the Corps. Throughout my service I had been accosted from time to time with the remark 'you were in boys' service, weren't you?'. The truth was that I had been accepted by the RAF for aircrew training, then discharged surplus to requirements and conscripted into the Army. I became a regular whilst serving in Palestine and, like **Harry Illingworth**, in the 'Y' service.

Yours sincerely
Wally Lombard

6 Normanby Road
Northallerton
North Yorkshire DL7 8RW

From: ex SSgt W. S. S. McKay

Dear Sir,

I served in the Corps from 1957 to 1972 where I made many friends. I would be grateful if through the medium of the magazine you would kindly publish the fact that **Shirley** and I are now running a small, private hotel in Blackpool. We should be delighted to welcome serving and ex-serving members of the Corps and their families and assure them of a memorable break in Blackpool. We are licensed!

Yours faithfully
Bill and **Shirley McKay**

Glenheath
Private Hotel
73 Lord Street
Blackpool FY1 2DA
Tel: 0253-24902

From: Maj (Retd) David Llewellyn

Dear Sir,

My wife and I recently visited Thailand for a short holiday. We were able to visit and travel on what remains of the Railway of Death, that infamous railway which was built by Allied POWs during World War 2. Only 70Km remain now but it is used every day by farmers and visitors using the one train a day service from Bangkok.

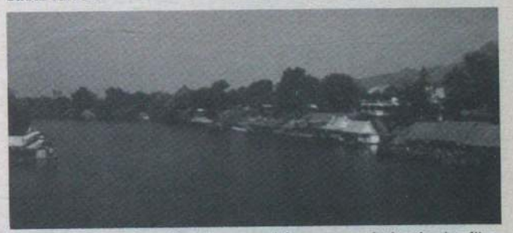
At the beautifully kept cemetery at Kanchanaburi, we noted several Royal Signals graves. It struck us that it was possible that sons, grandsons and relatives of these men, who died so far away from home, may never have known that a headstone existed. We shall be returning to Thailand again in December. We would be pleased and honoured to photograph a specific headstone, or look for others or indeed to place a floral tribute on any particular headstone. Headstones found were those of:-

Sig J. L. H. Morey	**Sgt J. O'Callaghan**
Sig T. D. Craig	**Driver S. D. Bray**
Sgt C. Davies	**Sig A. B. MacFie**
Sig A. Weller	**LCpl A. B. Chilton**
Sig J. Sugden	**Sig R. B. Blackman**
Sig F. Sprout	**Sig W. R. Clemishaw**

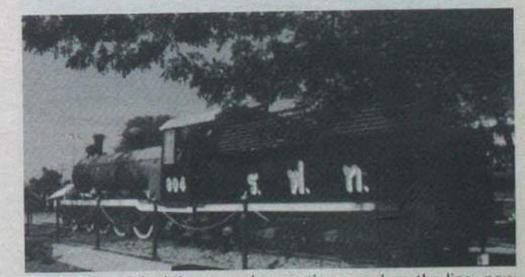
I can be contacted at the address below.

Yours faithfully
David Llewellyn

Cable & Wireless
PO Box 9854
Riyadh 11423
Saudi Arabia



The River Kwae (*not* Kwai, as used for pronunciation in the film, which was made in Sri Lanka)



One of the original Japanese locomotives used on the line, now preserved at Kanchanaburi, Thailand

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

OPERATIONS

In the Londonderry area, life has been eerily quiet (and long may it stay so). A series of finds in the city have undoubtedly helped. Petrol bombings in Strabane have continued but elsewhere success has been achieved as IEDs have been discovered before detonation. It goes without saying that many in the Squadron were deeply shocked by the loss of two (well known to many) comrades in Belfast.

SOinCs VISIT

Monday, 7 March dawned dull and overcast— no surprise in Londonderry, and at approximately 1030 hrs the SOinC stepped from his car to begin his visit of 8 Bde Sig Sqn.

Accompanied by the OC, **Maj Ellis**, the SOinC was first shown a demonstration of Heli-Tele, and subsequently invited to open the new Heli-Tele shed—named after its designer, **Sgt Andy Johnson.**

Following a tour of SYSCON, the SOinC moved to M Troop and met the 8 Bde Rigging Sect led by **Cpl Jim McNaught**.

After moving to MT, the SOinC presented the unit Safe Driving awards to thos Squadron drivers who had managed a year on the roads without accident—quite an achievement in Ireland (judging by insurance premiums). The SOinC then retired to the Foyle View, where he presented **Sgt Whale** with his LS&GC medal, and then retired to the Waterside for an informal buffet lunch with Squadron personnel, wives and families.

Before leaving for Lisburn, the SOinC saw off the Ex Iron Feet personnel on the march to Stranraer to London to complete what we thought was a highly successful visit.

The SOinC meets Sgt Johnson during the opening of the Johnson Building (The new Heli Tele Shed)

The Brigade Spar Team (Eight till late)
Sig Drummond, Squirrell, LCpl Griffiths and Cpl McNaught

THE MERCURY CUP PATROL COMPETITION

After weeks of hard, time consuming, back breaking training, (honest)! competition day arrived. 8 Brigade's two teams of eight battle-trained warriors enthusiastically took on and conquered the tasks set before them.

The first team to set off was under the command of **2Lt Hutchinson**, who, showing how it should be done, led from the front! The obstacle course was the first task and both teams set outstanding times. Team B led by **SSgt 'Black Mac' McMillian** showed both 40 Sig Regt (V) and 233 Sig Sqn what team work meant, we would have shown 39 Platoon but they forgot to turn up.

Next came the Beach Run, with water bottles, or were they Jerry Cans? Through the excellent foresight of 233 both teams had to first erect rafts as the inconsiderate tide had worked its way up the beach and the run had become a swim. After drying ourselves off we went on to complete the Question Papers on NBC and First Aid. Well done **Cpl Elson**, you spelt your name right. This was followed by the First Aid practical and what **LCpl 'Geordy' Gray** said when giving a helping hand to a casualty was not actually completed. What he meant to say was, 'Give her one of these to put under her head'.

The march and shoot completed what was, all round, a most enjoyable day and we at 8 Bde would all love to do it again!

Well done lads for an excellent effort.

STOP PRESS

We have just learnt of the success of our Squadron Hockey Team which beat Depot Prince of Wales Division 1—0 in the Army Minor Units Championship final.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPS SUMMARY

Apart from the stunning and horrific event which hit the headlines recently the patch has been relatively quiet—even more of the locals seem to be getting fed up with 'the situation'.

Along with the rest of the Brigade we had a heavy burst of activity in mid March.

Communications were provided for all sorts of contingencies; the technicians and riggers were installing kit all over West Belfast, including extra talkthroughs and new Ops Rooms. Meanwhile Helitele saw more service in a week than it has had all winter. With extra Ops Rooms to man, equipment to transfer and vehicles going everywhere the whole Squadron was on overtime plus. Except the lucky skiers, who did not even have the expected sheet ice, with rocks, in an Arctic blizzard to contend with at the top of Cairngorm (we are only jealous).

We welcome members of 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn to the Province. They are very welcome—to the strangest shaped TAOR in the Army. It is a very interesting time for us all and several members of the Squadron are transferring to give them a hand.

VISIT OF THE SOinC

The SOinC visited the Squadron on the afternoon of 8 March.

On arrival he was met by the OC, **Maj Hugh Hancock**, and the RSM, **WO1 Mal Boor**. After refreshments, during which he managed to speak to all the officers and SNCOs present, he lunched, informally in the Sergeants' Mess. From there he visited TM Tp, where he was briefed on their activities by **SSgt Mick Partridge**. The visit included a look at Cougarnet Transportable and Permanent Talkthroughs, with the commentary by **Cpl 'Jock' Dear. Sgt Mark Philo** then demonstrated Commcen and Vengeful teleprinters in the TE workshops, quickly followed by a look at Heli Tele, where **Cpl 'Split Pin' Crook** passed on his newly acquired expertise.

Following on from there **Gen Alexander** went to see Systems Control, ably commanded by **Cpl Bob Booth** and **LCpl Chris Adams**. Having seen Syscon before, the conversation was mainly about the skills needed to stay on top of the job and remain sane.

The Brigade Commanders Rover Group, led by **Cpl 'Scouse' Wharton**, then escorted **Gen Alexander** into West Belfast. The first port of call being 1 Bn Royal Scots, HQ in North Howard Street Mill. Coincidentally, the Corps and the Royal Scots share **The Princess Royal** as their Colonel-in-Chief. After meeting the RLD, led by **Sgt Ffitch**, he saw **Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell** and **LCpl Jim Fearon** fitting an antenna to an APV, for the Royal Scots.

The final location visited was the Broadway Tower OP were **Gen Alexander** was briefed on and watched, the immediate follow up, then in progress, to a shooting incident from the Ballymurphy into Corry's Wood Yard. After this piece of excitement, **Sgt John Hagger** and **Cpl 'Taff' Parry**, explained the problems of fitting a new talkthrough on top of Broadway—and avoiding being shot at, there and elsewhere. After this look at the unlovely sights of West Belfast, Rover Group achieved a neatly timed extraction, by returning **Gen Alexander** to HQNI in Lisburn with seconds to spare before his next appointment.

The SOinC is met by the OC and RSM at the Sgts' Mess

LCpl Chris Adams explains Cougarnet whilst OC Comms Tp, Capt Steve Felton blinks in amazement

SHQ

Congratulations go to **Cpl Paul 'Suedehead' Wicks** on passing his Detachment Commander's Course, promotion and posting to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn; now he only needs to learn how to stay on the road when driving. Before I forget, we would like our stationery store keys back **Paul**. Well done, on promotion, to **LCpl Allan 'I didn't know the clocks had to go forward' Jones** who loves guard duties so much that the RSM, **WO1 Mal Boor** arranged for him to do even more of them!

Welcome back to **Miss Annette 'Crocodile Dundee' Campbell** from sunny Australia with a tan and stories about what aboriginies do with their boomerangs. She was clearly impressed.

The Squadron Headquarters has jumped into the 80s with a new word processor manned by **Cpl Nobby 'Clive Sinclair' Clarke** who seems to have it under control. It can't make tea yet so **Mrs Carol 'Granny' Stevenson**'s job as typist is safe . . . until we get the tea machine installed.

COMMS TROOP
SYSCON/COMMCEN

We have been enjoying a generally quiet period. **Sgt Derrick Styles** has recently completed his RSSSC, whilst **Cpl 'Taff' Burdge** has kept a watchful eye on the Commcen, and many of the team are wondering how he manages to check the previous day's traffic from his second home — the APDO.

Congratulations must go to the following: **Sig 'Swamp Rat, No Neck' Green** on his promotion to Lance Corporal. **Sgt Derrick Styles** on passing his RSSSC. **Cpl 'Stiff' Corpse** and wife **Polly** on the birth of their son **Ben. Sig 'Taff' Pattison** on his engagement to **Christine. Cpl Burdge** on spending three hours away from the APDO.

We welcome new arrivals **Cpl Dave Keevash, LCpl Pat Downing, Sig 'Paddy' Johnson, Chris Nelson** and **'Young Bob' Booth**, and bid a fond farewell to those leaving us for the joys of 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, namely **LCpls Heaton, Bromfield, Tait, Howard, Green** and **Sig Lavery**.

Syscon has been running as efficiently as ever, with the occasional busy period, whilst major operatins occurred in Belfast. After the initial engineering problems, peace was again restored much to the delight of **Cpl 'Old' Bob Booth**. The Crypto Cell has operated without problems under the beady eye of **Cpl Ian Locker** whilst his understudies **Cpls George Best** and **'Grandad' Curtis** slaved themselves into the ground under the massive workload.

On a general note, during the recent unrest in West Belfast, the Castlereagh Tac Ops Room was activated and manned by **Cpl Booth** and his apprentice **Capt Steve 'Guns' Felton** (OC Comms Tp). These two were in post for an average of 16 hours per day or an average of three 3 course meals per day at the RUC Station. (Nice combats Sir).

RADIO SECTION

Radio Section has had a hectic time with most of the Section on EOD courses. Congratulations to **Sig Eddie Reynolds** on passing his; he will shortly be deployed for a long holiday in Bessbrook.

Heli Tele has been busy with funerals, firstly down South with **Cpl Chris 'I know everything about it' Sands, Sig Archie Gemmell** and **Al Payne**. Then the real operators took over—**LCpls Mark Mayled** and **'Butto' Donne**. They were tasked for four days at North Howard Street Mill and the Andersonstown RUC Station finally returning to Lisburn, much to their relief.

Meanwhile **Lt 'Rip Van Winkle' Beard** and members of the Squadron were on a two-week skiing holiday. Who says **Lt Beard** doesn't work?

Sgt 'Two Bellies' Oakley and yet again **Cpl 'Clumsy' Chris Sands** were deployed down to Newry on yet another comms trial.

LCpl Jon Chivers is doing a successful job as fire NCO after passing yet another course.

Congratulations to **Sig 'Titch' Colquitt** on his recent marriage to **Heather**—no more nights in the Cub for you **Titch!**

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Goodbye and good luck to **LCpls 'Taff' Donne, Jon Chivers, Alex Meston** and **Sig Kevin '14 hours a day sleeping' Rowe** all to 3 Bde.

Hello to **Capt Steve Felton** who has taken over, very successfully, from **Capt Simon Renfrey** as the Squadron fitness freak!

Welcome Sir from all the lads, especially **Sig 'Fitty' Hallett.**

TM TROOP

TM Tp is just catching its breath at the moment after a very hectic time. We managed to get several lads away skiing for one of the two weeks as well as three on a safe-to-climb course and one on a short riggers course (short means it's only four weeks). As usual in NI, Murphy's Law applied and everything which could go wrong, did. The Gibraltar incident occurred and we catered for all eventualities, the few lads left had to work all hours putting in talkthroughs and Heli Tele ground stations in various of locations. This, coupled with the funerals of the two 'volunteers' in Crossmaglen when only the Heli Tele Lynx stayed on the right side of border as the hearse tried to lose its escort is really proving the value of Heli Tele. The FofS and **SSgt Partridge** are issuing Heli Tele propaganda leaflets now while **LCpl Gordon Mundi** is planning how to move his bed into the control room, he's spending so much time there. Well done lads for all the hard work.

In the Armagh Border area, 40 Cdo RM appear to be looking after things well from HMS *Bessbrook*; as usual the Royal Marines are a pleasure to work with.

Belfast now has improved coverage on Cougar UHF with the installation of a talkthrough in Broadway Tower for the North Howard St Coy — we are back to the problem with ease of access though—do I hear UHF faults mentioned?

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. . . . . .

RUMOUR CONTROL

That **LCpl Vince McNaught** has found a new polarity for Cougar, but did it work?

That **Cpl 'Taff' Parry** and crew did pull the pin out of the coax when moving 55A to Deadmans.

That **Cpl Steve Coulson** passed a BFT and has now got another light duties chit while he builds himself up for a CFT.

FAREWELLS

To **LCpl Mark** and **Sabina Fearon** on their early escape to 21 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt 'Dinky' Tatman** on passing his FofS entrance—good luck for the Board.

EXERCISE WHITE POWDER

This year's skiing exercise took place in the Cairngorn ski basin over a two week period in March, well timed to miss all the activities in Belfast. Twenty-four streamlined soldiers selected from a cast of hundreds represented the 39 Bde Ski Team with electric pace and colourful style. The team ventured to the slopes to undergo an ardous training schedule organised by the team's own Franz Klammer—**Lt Beard**.

Many points were brought out by the exercise, especially the courage of those who decided to regularly 'banzai' down the Gunbarrel and White Lady runs.

Incidents and memories that come to mind include the lack of moral fibre shown by members of the party (mainly in the evening) and the courage of **LCpl Pete Clark** in providing entertainment for the locals at the Rox Disco. The exercise is put into perspective by one member deployed on the second training period:-

'After a long and laborious drive from Lisburn we finally arrived at The Jallaber Country Club, Aviemore for an arduous exercise. After settling in, everyone retired early anticipating the following day's activities. The skis collected, we deployed to the slopes and advanced to Mid Station in order to practise the basics acquired three to five years earlier. After 20-30 minutes most were abe to "schuss" as well as before—occasionally moving in their intended direction'.

The week passed by in good spirits with everything going according to plan during the day and by night. It was equally enjoyable and worthwhile to those who had skied before and those who were novices. There was even snow and sun together—very odd in Scotland.

STOP PRESS

Over the Easter break the Squadron Club was the venue for a 48 hour marathon disco, with all proceeds to be donated to Charity. Although counting is still going on, we have raised in excess of £1,000, which will be divided between a Children's Play Group in Lincolnshire and **WO2 Barney Barnish** of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, who is attempting to regain the World Endurance Non-Stop Walking record.

Special mention must go to those bleary eyed stalwarts involved in the organisation: **WO2 (RQMS) Fred Payet** (who charged exit fees as well as entrance fees), **Cpl Cal Hewitt**, the barman, **Dvr 'Taff' Lorimer**, asst barman, **LCpl 'Olly' Olney, Jim the 'deejay, Cpl Les Dawson, LCpl Vince McNaught** and **Cpl 'Taff' Morris.**

Also thanks to all those members of Lisburn Garrison who gave their hard-earned cash so willingly.

Brittany — La Baule

Fully equipped four berth Mobile Home on pleasant camp site with shop. Three minutes to beach (five miles of golden sands). Mains electricity. H&C shower. Calor Gas Cooking. Late May till September from £60 pw. Championship Golf Course five miles.

Dunstan 01 650 5542.
4/43 Wickham Road, Beckenham, Kent.

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

SOinC's VISIT

On Wednesday, 9 March **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, the SOinC, paid his annual visit to the Squadron. During his busy programme he met members in their working environments, and was brought up to date on the many changes since his last visit.

The SOinC promises Chief Clerk, SSgt Ron Coleman, that he will find the chap responsible for his haircut

CHARITY DISCO

On 6 February a charity disco was held in aid of the Wishing Well appeal for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The event was organised by **Janice Gilbert** and **Stella Coleman**, who run the 'Nip Inn' cafe. A tremendous £446 was raised for the charity. A special thank-you must go to **LCpls Karen Ellams** and **Uni Bolder**—(Toga Queens), **Cpl Fran Francis**—(The 'I don't swear a lot' DJ), **Cpls John Jolly** and **Mal Pryke**—(233's version of Lofty and Wicksy), **Cpl Sandy Sanderson** and **LCpl Nigel Whiston**—(construction engineers) and **Cpl 'Fergie' Ferguson**—(for his generous contributions to the swear box).

And finally a thank-you to the PRI and local shops who donated to the raffle.

INDIA TROOP VICTOR SECTION

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Cheerio and good luck to the following:- **LCpl Wayne Bradford** who is leaving us to tie the knot, then a posting of a lifetime to sunny Soltau (watch out for the mosquitoes **'Brads'**). We also say farewell to the Troop's computer buff **Sig 'Dutch' Holland** who leaves us for 7 Sig Regt on promotion, best of luck to the both of them from the Troop, they'll both need it!

We would also like to say hello and welcome to our new YofS, **SSgt (YofS) Stratton** who has already made a lot of friends in the Troop ('cos he buys the beers) good bloke eh! Hello also to **Cpl Ritchie Brown** who has already expressed his love and devotion to the Troop (honest). Finally, welcome to **Sgt Steve Ferguson** who has been lucky enough to be transferred from Tech Tp to us (about time he found out what real work is anyway)!

Now for the good stuff. Victor Section at long last open their doors to the rest of the Squadron to reveal what goes on at the sharp edge of life. The lads offer their thanks to the OC's dog **Bobby** for restoring the Troop to its natural state so soon after the SoinC's visit. **Bobby**'s name sake **SSgt Bob 'Uncle' McMahon** was not so impressed when he had to rescue **Bobby**'s companion from the muddy hole so thoughtfully provided by the builders. Shame about the uniform Staff, but rumour has it there will be plenty of time to get it clean before its next outing.

A SHIFT

Under the iron fist of **Cpl Willy Kelly** the shift continues to go from strength to strength. Some may think that **LCpl Billy Ingram** and **Sig Steve Steel**'s sentences were just and fair, but does anybody out there know what **LCpl Karen Ellams** has done to be awarded such a fate?

In his few moments at ground level, **Cpl Kelly** meanwhile is believed to be dreaming about jobs in civvy street—pie in the sky perhaps.

B SHIFT

Under the control of **LCpl Neil Harrison** who at the moment seems to be failing in his attempts to convert his shift into a socialist state before his withdrawal from the British Army. Although he holds high hopes for **Sig Rick Stacey** who has not been himself since his abortive attempt to emigrate with **Sig Steve Seel. Sig 'Beef' Berger** has already been discounted as a lost cause. He has repeatedly been seen wandering around in a trance dreaming of the dizzy heights of a Lance Corporal at 7 Sig Regt. **Sig Joe Blood** meanwhile surveys all this with wry humour as he ponders the passing of life from the Tech Control room.

C SHIFT

Under a new leader **Cpl Ritchie Brown,** who is still wondering if life has any meaning at all after his discovery that Ptarmigan and Tarif don't operate in NI (it was much easier in the old days).

LCpl 'Brads' Bradford is counting the hours until the big day. It is really worth it or will **Julie** get the better of him? **Sig 'Dutch' Holland** realises he has failed to pass on the love of his computer to anyone else and accepts his banishment to 7 Sig Regt with resignation. Not forgetting **Sig Paul Prosser** who occasionally returns from leave for a game of football.

FOOTNOTE

You will be pleased to note that the NAAFI has some videos available for hire this month, thanks to **LCpl Billy Ingram** kindly returning his small collection. How much was it **Bill**? That'll teach you to go on leave.

INDIA TROOP WHISKY SECTION

TECHNICAL COMMENTS

Report by Cpl Tim Debell

We would firstly like to welcome to the Troop **Cpl Phil Howard** from his recent tour of the Falklands and **Sgt Steve Ferguson** from Tech Tp.

At present we are going through a very busy period (how unusual)? due to the formation of the Old/New Bde, **Sgt Steve Ferguson,** who has kindly volunteered to be technical representative for Victor Section will have quite a plateful on his hands when the formation begins.

Meanwhile over in Whisky Section **FofS Phil McGiveron,** who is up to his neck in new equipment and paperwork, has the task of coordinating the whole operation with the help of his workforce which consists of **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** who enjoys Computer Programming in his spare time! **Cpl Tim Debell** who's managed to sneak away on a course for the duration of April. **Cpl Phil 'Flower' Howard** who's just not sure what's going on. **Cpl Chris Wilson** who's just realised its not a nine to five job!

One final comment is to **Sgt Phil Skerritt** who is now in Gibraltar . . . so much for a quiet posting.

OPS COMMENTS

LCpl Daz 'I can put two receive boards in a two board modem' Byrnes.

Over the past few months the section has seen a dramatic change in shift operators with five new people in and four out.

So say hello to the new arrivals, **Cpl 'Jabba' Mensa Kerr** from Commcen Tp, **Cpls Baz** and **Cath Roberts** from 211 Sig Sqn.

Farewells are extended to **Cpl Ray 'Never Here'** and **Karen King, Sig Si 'Charisma' Riddell.**

Finally congratulations go to **Cpl Mitch** and **Debbie Milton** on the birth of their son **Martin.**

WRAC (CHAUVINIST) COMMENTS

Well! here's a note from the hard working, keen, conscientious and supportive members of the section . . . *The Women*. Really there's not much new to report apart from our hands having a permanent smell of disinfectant, due to the constant 'degunging' of the section, which no male member seems to participate in!

We say farewell to **Pte Theresa McMahon** who's gone to pastures and 29 Sig Regt and also **WLCpl Sue** and **Danny Kilbride** on their posting to 238 Sig Sqn. We wish Good Luck to them all.

Welcome and happy cleaning to newly promoted **WLCpl Caroline Jeffrey** who's joined the section all the way from Commcen Tp. Also **WLCpl Tracey Hudson** and **Pte Wendy Gooding** who have come from 16 Sig Regt and 251 Sig Sqn respectively. We would also like to welcome **Pte Sue Standford** who was missed in the last *Wire* . . . Sorry **Sue.**

Our congratulations and best wishes go to **Pte Sharon 'Suffragette' Allmark** nee **Pinder** and **Cpl Rick Allmark** on their recent marriage.

TECH TROOP—BRINTON

Brinton System Control is now approaching full swing! As can be seen from the photograph, gone are the days when technicians changed, repaired or just plain damaged systems; using hammers, pliers, masking tape and soldering irons being weilded *so* expertly that everyone within a 10m radius gets burned. Ah, those were the days! Nowadays the technicians main tools of the trade are a dictionary and a fresh bottle of nail varnish! Our photograph shows **Cpl Harry Board** desperately trying to understand the answers being displayed and **LCpl Glen Davies** desperately trying to understand the question that had been asked!

These stalwarts along with **Cpls Colin Mather, Ned Kelly, Martin Flather** and **LCpl** (Still)! **Dickie Dickenson,** are the technicians who support and maintain the system. GEC's proud boast of system survivability can be well tested by such men as these. Leading this merry band is **SSgt Dave Arundel**. He is a recent arrival but has quickly settled down and will be able to type at the 4wpm considered necessary for a Brinton expert.

'Danger—Techs at work'. Cpl Harry Board and LCpl Glen Davies learning to communicate with Brinton

THE MERCURY CUP PATROL COMPETITION

Report by Sig 'Dutch' Holland

Isn't it funny how the words Patrol Competition can result in a spate of injuries and extra work load? So it was that a week before the event people could be seen ducking and diving around the Squadron, trying to appear either very busy or injured, or preferably both. As is always the case though, the less adept of us were rooted out to become 'volunteers'.

Thus began a hectic week of preparation with **Sgt John Roose** trying to keep track of his constantly changing teams, as well as working out a training programme for us. It was to be Thursday before the teams were finalised.

They were:-

Team A	Team B
Sgt Steve Ferguson	Sgt Thornton-Granville
Cpl Willy Kelly	Cpl Wooding
Cpl Tony Cryer	LCpl Hodds
Cpl Paul Fleming	LCpl Maughan
LCpl Glen Davies	LCpl Coffey
LCpl 'Brads' Bradford	LCpl Matthewson
Sig 'Dutch' Holland	Sig O'Dell
Sig 'Beef' Berger	

We even managed to end up with an extra man—**Sig Paul Prosser**—who was our reserve, and eventually became team cheerleader—not very pretty but effective. Eventually Friday came and after a few minor hitches we set off for Ballykinler. We arrived, surprised both by the fact that it was dry, and that it was the first time that we had all been in the same place at the same time.

After the heart stopping sight of seeing the team from 40 Sig Regt (V) start the Assault Course it was our turn to be inspected. Any happy thoughts about passing the weigh-in without anyone receiving the 20lbs extra weight for having underweight webbing were quashed when it starting raining. By the time we got to the start of the Assault Course we were under siege by a typical Ballykinler downpour—which got worse as the day wore on.

What followed next is almost beyond comprehension, although we were all suitably impressed by **Sgt Steve Ferguson**'s Human Fly impression. The number of walls to be scaled would have disheartened any prison escaper. It was quite a shock to fall over the last wall and realise that we had all got through—there was nothing else to scale, climb, or stumble over. Part 1 of the competition was over.

After a brief rest to regain our breath we started out on Part 2. This consisted of a run of about two miles, carrying not only our rifles and 30lbs of webbing, but also three 4 gall water carriers per section.

The run to the stand was mainly along the beach, unfortunately the tide was in at the time so we weren't running so much as wading—up to our knees at times. Eventually we arrived at the first stand which turned out to be the command task, a cunningly devised problem which apparently took the DS about half an hour to complete, but which under the guidance of **Cpl Willy Kelly** we solved in about two minutes. This apparently put us well ahead of 40 Sig Regt (V), but unfortunately meant that all too soon we were off running again. Through the dunes this time to our next stand which was a First Aid test. Thankfully dropping our water carriers we dived into the tent to drip and ponder over our question papers. This task safely accomplished without too much 'thinking aloud' and we were back out into the rain to pick up our water carriers. We were met with cries of 'Gas Gas Gas', incredulously we looked around thinking that perhaps it might be a joke, but no, on we ran wearing respirators.

Fortunately we all survived the gas attack and arrived at the third stand in one piece, if somewhat out of breath. This turned out to be the NBC written test which was accomplished with as much gusto as the previous stand. Running on unhindered by respirators we came across an OP under Mortar Attack which left several casualties needing First Aid. The situation was further complicated by there being an unexploded mortar bomb next to the casualties. Most were moved prior to the treatment which in at least one case left a tangle of tubes and blood filled bags trailing in the grass behind the casualty. I think it would be fair to say that we saved most of the casualties, bit of a shame about **Sig 'Space Cat' Hudson** though who died about four times that day—ever get the feeling that you're not wanted?

We then had the final run in to the Command Tent where thankfully we were able to drop off our water carriers, which was the end of part 2.

After only a couple of minutes rest we set off on the run to the Range—about a mile away, which we completed in about 11 minutes arriving before the team from 40 Sig Regt (V) finished their shoot. Just the final run up to the firing trenches and then we realised that our Self Loading Rifles had become Self Jamming Rifles. This necessitated cocking the weapon by hand for every shot. As if this wasn't enough a smoke grenade was the signal for another gas attack. So we now only had about three seconds to cock the rifle and fire at a target which was obscured by the rain on the eyepieces of the respirators and the smoke from the smoke grenade blowing between us and the targets. Needless to say there weren't any high scores recorded.

LCpl Ali Davis showing she does possess boots

A pleasant day by the seaside—The 233 Sig Sqn B Team at the Patrol Competition

At last it was all over and we thankfully departed for the hot showers and a change into dry clothing. Arriving at the pavilion there was no sign of our dry clothes, but having been assured by **SSgt McMahon** that they were on their way, we gratefully dived into the hot showers. Twenty minutes later they had still not arrived, and as we were standing turning blue our morale was lowered even further by the sight of **Sig Paul Prosser** returning empty handed but with a message from the SSM that we were to get dressed again and help take the tents down. Who will ever forget that wonderful moment when we surveyed our blue bodies, wet clothes, and the rain outside. Fortunately mutiny was averted at the last moment by **Sgt Len Munday** appearing, weighed down by several large bags—our clothes had arrived. A quick change parade had nothing on the speed with which those blue bodies became clothed once more.

Finally after a bite to eat (dry chips and dry pies) it was time to go to the command tent for the award ceremony and there before our eyes was the score board which definitely declared us to be the winners of not only the Competition itself but also the team event as well.

So was it all worthwhile?—only you can answer that.

VISIT OF HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL GVCO TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Cloaked in much secrecy, an event took place on 17 December which involved a high-powered team of electrical experts—plus the TOT! The Squadron was tasked with providing lighting for a visit by **The Princess Royal** to a handicapped riding school in Maghera, near Newcastle, Co Down. This meant putting two 8/12 generators on the back of a 'covert' 4-tonner and driving it down to Maghera. The lighting consisted of a lot of two-core cable, prick-throughs and 150 Watt bulbs. Despite the top-heavy rank structure the team managed to set-up a working system first time—**(Cpl Hizzett** says that they didn't get in his way too much)!

The Princess Royal saw a display by some of the school's disabled riders and met some of the local helpers. To commemorate the visit HRH planted a tree, and then flew off to continue her visit to the rest of the Province.

Cpl Hizzy Hizzett and SSgt Gaz Hailstone try to hide their 'Covert' 4-tonner

SQUADRON (NI) RUGBY CLUB

Once again the Squadron Rugby team reached the final of the NIARU Challenge Cup Competition which was played at Aldergrove on 31 March 1988 at 3 Queens Rugby pitch. 233 once again met their old rivals 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE who were the current holders of the Minor Unit Shield.

The game was played in the normal spirit; hard, fast and very gentlemanly. 233 attacked from the start with some good forward play, but 33 came back strongly. Their pack won the ball from a line out and passed to their threes, the ball was moved out but an infringement by 233 gave a penalty to 33, the first of the match, which they converted. The forwards of 233 tried hard to control the match from the front, but 33 proved too strong. The ball was fumbled a lot in the scrum by both teams which did not allow the threes to show their running ability. On the other hand 33's forwards won most of the line out balls and started to dominate the forward play. Their threes proved that they also could do their job. A good game was in the making. At half time the score was 7—0 to 33 Sqn RE.

The second half was fought out strongly with 233 getting the ball from the scrum to the threes which resulted in a try by **Cpl Ironside**, unfortunately, **Cpl Roberts** could not convert. 33 came back strongly. The game shifted from side to side with the pack of 33 dominating the second half. Again 233 gave a penalty away, 33 converted which gave a final score of 10—4 to 33 Sqn RE. The GOC **Maj Gen Sir Robert Pascoe** made the presentation at the end of the match to 33 Sqn RE. Well played lads. Both teams retired to 33's camp for the third half which was a win for 233 Sig Sqn. We promise to take the shield next year.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE OC

On Friday, 4 December 1987, 233 held a Squadron Review. the WRAC contribution was a rip off of 'Blind Date'. The OC, **Maj Parfitt** had the difficult task of choosing between four beautiful stunners! I was the lucky one! What would the day out be? Shark hunting in Bangor? A picnic on the moors? In fact it was what everyone dreams of doing, 'A Swop of Jobs'!

It was only meant as a joke, nobody would take it seriously, or would they?

On 8 January 1988 at 0830 hrs, myself a mere Bl Switchboard Operator, **Pte Polly Poyton** took over command from **Maj 'Jim'll Fix It' Parfitt**. Before **'Pte' Parfitt** left to tackle the jungle at the back of the Commcen, known as the Telephone Exchange, he presented me with a 'Blue Peter Badge' on which was printed 'Acting OC 233' (I made sure everybody saw that)!

As I sat there behind the 'Throne', I wondered what was in store for me. I mean what does an OC do apart from walk around in the latest yuppie clothes? I prayed it would not have anything to do with a round of golf with Traffic! (Anything but)!

My first assignment was a 'Works Parade'. **Staff 'I** wanna be a drill Instructor' **Wise** conducted the Parade, which was a very good turn out apart from three 'plonkers' who were doubled away mumbling under their breath, something about getting me later; what did they mean?

After that it was a trip around Tech and Radio Workshops. I could do what you lot do easily!

Next on the agenda was elevenses with 'Hinge and Bracket' alias **Stella** and **Janice** in the Nip Inn. They jumped at the chance to sit down with **SSM Watson** and myself to pour out their troubles!

Now with a sore throat, I moved on to Victor Tp. **SSgt McMahon** was my guide where I thoroughly enjoyed myself, **(Pte White**'s tea was the best too)! I'll forgive you Staff!

After dinner, a chauffeur driven car was waiting to take me on a detailed tour of MT Tp. They certainly have a rough time down there; don't worry lads, I'll stick up for you in the future! Then it was back to the Squadron and a look around the 'Junkyard' of the QM Stores!

By the time a very tired and worn out Acting OC was then escorted to the Happy Hour by **SSM Watson** and **'Pte' Parfitt**. There was the presentation of colours and the Draw. Finally after an exhausting day, I had to hand the Squadron back to **Maj Parfitt** and, well you know the rest.

I would like to thank everybody who contributed to making it a fantastic day.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

EXITS AND ENTRIES

We all wish the 30 Junior Leaders and 22 Apprentice Tradesmen who graduated last term God speed, good fortune and success in their chosen career in Royal Signals: Bradley Sqn, Penney Sqn, Rawson Sqn and Scott Sqn.

BRADLEY SQUADRON

Rank and Name	*Trade*	*Posting*
JL I. P. Bennett	Tech Stmn	8 Sig Regt
JL LCpl P. J. Bruce	Tech	8 Sig Regt
JL P. A. Davie	R Op	8 Sig Regt
JL Cpl D. J. Downey	R Op	8 Sig Regt
JL G. S. W. Evans	Cbt Pmn Dvr	8 Sig Regt
JL LCpl M. Farnfield	Tech	8 Sig Regt
JL LCpl W. T. D. Ferrie	Tech	8 Sig Regt
JL Sgt W. A. Gilvear	R Op	8 Sig Regt
JL I. C. Harper	D Tg	8 Sig Regt
JL LCpl D. Harris	R Op	8 Sig Regt
JL D. Hickson	Tech	8 Sig Regt
JL Cpl P. N. Howie	Cbt Pmn Dvr	8 Sig Regt
JL J. S. Huxley	Ew Op	8 Sig Regt
JL G. Kirtley	S Tg	8 Sig Regt
JL LCpl G. R. Lowas	R Op	8 Sig Regt
JL K. A. McIntosh	Tech Stmn	8 Sig Regt
JL LCpl N. MIllar	S Tg	8 Sig Regt
JL D. M. McMilliken	Cbt Pmn Dvr	8 Sig Regt
JL A. A. Mitchell	D Tg	8 Sig Regt
JL S. P. Pargin	Cbt Pmn Dvr	8 Sig Regt
JL Cpl D. J. Pilling	Cbt Pmn Dvr	8 Sig Regt
JL N. J. Pollitt	D Tg	8 Sig Regt
JL B. W. Riddell	Tech	8 Sig Regt
JL LCpl G. Roberts	D Tg	8 Sig Regt
JL D. N. Stirton	Cbt Dvr	8 Sig Regt
JL S. J. Stoker	R Op	8 Sig Regt
JL Cpl A. J. Terry	R Op	8 Sig Regt
JL T. C. Vanandel	R Op	8 Sig Regt
JL J. Whitehead	EW Op	8 Sig Regt
JL Cpl G. Wykes	R Op	8 Sig Regt

PENNEY SQUADRON

Rank and Name	*Trade*	*Posting*
AT LCpl D. I. Curtis	R Tg	602 Sig Tp
AT S. J. Gourley	R Tg	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
AT SSM J. McLoughlin	TE Tech	8 Sig Regt
AT A. K. Williams	R Tg	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
AT Cpl S. Wolf	R Tg	30 Sig Regt
AT D. A. Wrench	TE Tech	8 Sig Regt

RAWSON SQUADRON

Rank and Name	*Trade*	*Posting*
AT P. M. Brannon	R Tg	30 Sig Regt
AT SSM M. P. Cox	R Tg	30 Sig Regt
AT LCpl S. W. Crowther	R Tech	8 Sig Regt
AT LCpl P. J. Dapprich	TE Tech	8 Sig Regt
AT Cpl P. N. Demain	TE Tech	8 Sig Regt
AT Sgt S. L. Hobson	TE Tech	8 Sig Regt
AT A. D. James	R Tg	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
AT LCpl L. A. Malin	R Tg	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
AT Sgt J. N. Meadows	TE Tech	8 Sig Regt

SCOTT SQUADRON

Rank and Name	*Trade*	*Posting*
AT C. R. Barker	R Tg	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
AT SSM G. M. Besant	R Tech	8 Sig Regt
AT Cpl C. W. Davey	R Tg	249 Sig Sqn
AT P. J. Hillary	TE Tech	8 Sig Regt
AT Cpl P. N. Teck	R Tg	30 Sig Regt
AT RSM J. R. Trimmer	R Tg	602 Sig Tp
AT Sgt M. A. Whitehead	TE Tech	8 Sig Regt

The Commandant, Permanent Staff and remaining 742 Apprentices and Junior Leaders extend a warm welcome to the 40 Junior Leaders and 36 Apprentice Tradesmen who arrived at Harrogate in early January. To be known as intake '88A'.

SCOTT SQUADRON
TECHNICANS
P. J. P. Allen
J. L. Barrow
I. M. Carruthers
R. G. Fillingham
A. S. Garside
S. P. George
M. Harvey
M. W. Heasman
J. M. Hender
J. B. Kilmurray
P. B. Sanderson
C. R. P. Stuart
J. G. Valentine
A. J. Wall
P. S. Webster
D. Wotherspoon

PENNY SQUADRON
RADIO TELEGRAPHISTS
J. L. Burke
J. G. Bulter
R. J. Cann
I. W. Dore
M. A. Fiske
D. J. A. Foster
R. D. Good
J. K. Hope
P. J. Lee
J. V. Morton
I. W. Perks
J. S. Poppleton
S. J. Robertson
P. S. Rowley
N. A. Searle
J. G. W. Strouts
D. Thompson
B. S. Thornton
S. Warriner
J. D. Wing

BRADLEY SQUADRON
JUNIOR LEADERS
B. J. Angus
D. C. Bird
D. M. Brindley
C. Burdaky
R. S. Burton
N. R. Darvill
W. V. Findlay
G. Fraser
T. Gamble
P. D. Hattle
C. Herd
A. J. Hunter
M. N. Isherwood
R. J. Jones
D. King
R. I. Kirk
B. S. Lambert
M. W. Legg
M. F. Levitt
K. W. MacPherson
K. R. S. Mast
J. McGuiness
S. R. Moss
J. J. Myers
A. Pearson
A. I. Phillips
J. A. Phillips
J. G. Richardson
M. Z. Rowe
A. P. Rutherford
N. J. Sharpe
S. C. Sim
J. T. M. Smith
W. W. R. Smith
J. Stokes
D. J. Walmsley
J. J. W. S. Webley
R. A. Williams
G. R. Willis
C. S. Wilson

NORDIC SKIING 1987/1988

'Does anyone want to learn to Nordic Ski?'; this was the question posed to the members of the Junior Leader (Bradley) Sqn at the beginning of September 1987. Ten expectant, enthusiastic Junior Leaders volunteered, with more wishing they had in early March when the Corps achieved another first, a 'white-out' in the military sport, Nordic Skiing.

The training began with the nine volunteers learning to Roller Ski. The initial training provided many comical moments for the instructors, although the skiers have more painful memories. After four weeks the team was reduced to four members, **JL LCpls George, James, JLs Barnett** and **Ward**. They continued to Roller Ski until December when they joined 22 Sig Regt in Norway. The experience proved invaluable to the Junior Leader Squad. All four had improved their technique and could now concentrate on race training.

After a short Christmas leave the team returned to Norway to participate in Ex Viking Lope. This developed their skiing ability further and gave them their first taste of success. The team won the 10km open race all achieveing good individual results; first **JL Ward**, third **JL Barnett**, fifth **JL LCpl James** and eighth **JL LCpl George**. In the HQ UKLF Open the team achieved first, second and third amongst the Junior entries—the first of many 'white-outs'.

Returning from Norway the team moved to Scotland for a week's training prior to the UKLF Championships. Skiing was done in the Queen's forest located near the Cairngorms. Conditions were poor and to add to the problem **JL LCpl James** was suffering with shin splits.

The team travelled to Ballater on 23 February to compete in the Championships. Conditions remained poor giving rise to a feeling of despondency among the skiers. The Padre visited, and the snow arrived the evening before the first race, the 5km. As the day progressed it became evident the team had done well. It was announced that **JL Barnett** had won in a time of 25 min 16 sec, **JL LCpl George** was fourth and **JL LCpl James** twelfth, **JL Ward** being disqualified on a technicality. Next, the big one—the 10km race. Once again the team achieved individual success with **JL Ward** gaining first place, **JL LCpl George** fifth, **JL Barnett** sixth and **JL LCpl James** thirteenth. During the first two days of racing it became apparent that the main rival was JIB Ouston. This led to a thrilling confrontation in the final and all important 3 × 5km Relay Race. The Arena was set and the team was ready to do battle. Again the team skied well producing a time of 1 hr 15 min 16 sec and with it becoming the Junior Army Champions. The anchor man, **Ward**, caught up with the leader, who had a 500m advantage at the 10km stage, to overtake him with the tape in sight!

During the Championship the team has achieved exceptional success, firmly placing Royal Signals in Junior Army Skiing. Congratualations to the team members for their determination, professionalism and corporate spirit in achieving their aim, to become the Junior Army Nordic Skiing Champions in the 5km, 10km and 3 × 5km Relay Race, and KOSB Cup. Recognition in this unique achievement also to **Capt Newman** (the youngest QM in the Corps), two instructors **SSgt Guy** and **Cpl Agnew** for their enthusiasm, tutelage and professionalism throughout the season.

The Junior Army Nordic Ski Champions 1988
L to R: SSgt John Guy APTC (Team Manager), JLLCpl Andrew George, JL Ian Barnett, JLLCpl Simon James, JL Michael Ward, Cpl Billy Agnew (Coach)

JL Robert Shaw collects the Blue Riband The Champion Squadron Trophy

CHAMPION SQUADRON COMPETITION

The highlight of each term is the Champion Squadron Competition, where the young soldiers of the College have the opportunity to compare the relative standard of training, fitness and commitment of the Squadrons. The events include NBC, First Aid, Shooting, Initiative/Map Reading, Swimming, Indoor Assault Course and Drill, a goodly cross section of the common military training syllabus.

This time, on 12 March, the effort, skill and determination displayed by all was impressive, and this was very evident in the final scores. The marking could not have been closer, with only two and a half points separating first and last place, the entire competition being wide open right up to the last event.

The Champion Squadron Trophy was, once again, handed to the Junior Leader (Bradley) Sqn by Commander Training Group, **Brig Alan Eastburn**. This entitles the Champion (Bradley) Sqn to sport the 'red lanyard', and take the honoured position as right of line at the many cermonial parades in the forthcoming term.

Brig Alan Eastburn with Pipe Maj Tommy Millar

Winners Bradley Squadron

On the Range

And the tea tastes awful

. . . and On the Rope

Not more blood

Looking for the Hole

Rawson Squadron—Worthy Losers

EXERCISE HALTON DIP

'The man stood on the burning deck. His feet were in the water'.

In late February, Junior Leaders of Quadrant Tp, Bradley Sqn, were to be found at Halton Training Camp, Lancaster, 'messing about on the river'.

The river in question was the River Lune, which came alive to the exhortations of 35 young men eager to sample the medicinal qualities of these famous spa waters, despite the arctic conditons.

The Junior Leaders were taking part in Ex Halton Dip a two day Leadership Exercise which aimed to practise leadership skills through the vehicle of watermanship Training.

Having press-ganged two watermanship instructors from 38 Engr Regt, Ripon, the motley crew of Quadrant Tp was quickly lashed into shape by **Lt Lawrence 'Walk the Plank' McCourt, Sgt Paul 'Cat O'Nine Tails' Horton** and **Mr Archie 'Jolly Roger' Miles**. Despite this set-back the crew was kept alive by the hot brews enanating from **Pte Para 'Hardtack' Robb ACC**.

Despite this set-back the crew was kept alive by the hot brews enanating from **Pte Para 'Hardtack' Robb ACC**.

The first day found the crew in port at Halton Camp, literally, learning the ropes. A briefing on safety and the rules of the road was followed by a crash course on knots and lashings, in preparation for the voyage ahead.

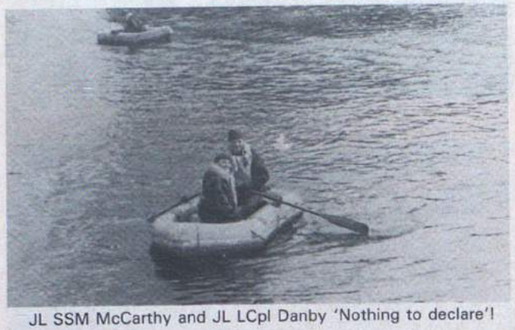
The crew was then introduced to the delights of the Mk5 Assualt Boat *Housemaid's Knee* and the Inflatable Recce Boat *Dizzy Spells* and learned to paddle as a team and learn river crossing techniques.

In the afternoon the peace of the river was shattered by the phut phut of Johnson Outboard Motors as the Junior Leaders demonstrated their ability to turn their Mk5 Assault Boats on a sixpence at 70 knots. All attempts however to practise man-over-board drills on **Lt McCourt** were doomed to failure—as he was firmly anchored to the deck having consumed at least four packed lunches during the day.

Having cleared all forms of life from the river the crew then proceeded to build a craft for their momentous voyage. Observers from the Royal Navy Dockyards anixous to cut costs on their new frigates were kept at a discreet distance as the crews professionally constructed a massive 35 man raft out of oil drums lashing and planks.

In the evening **Sgt Chesher RE** gave an interesting and frightening mine warfare presentation and showed the film, 'Effects of a Barmine'.

The second day saw the Grand Team Race in which the Junior Leaders put to the test all the skills learnt on the Exercise. Details of this must remain secret in order to protect the innocent. Needless to say it sapped the strength of everyone who took part but generated enormous excitement and enthusiasm. Thank you once again 38 Engr Regt for your professional assistance and the staff at Halton Training Camp for your kind hospitality.



JL SSM McCarthy and JL LCpl Danby 'Nothing to declare'!

Looking for a dry seat

JL LCpl Kinniard, A solo effort

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246 GURKHA SIG SQN

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. S. Hewitt**
2IC	**Capt R. G. C. Sparshatt**
SQGO	**Capt (QGO) Gambahadur Buduja**
SSM	**WO2 Chhetrabahadur Gurung**

FAREWELLS

12 January saw **Maj T. E. M. Richardson** and his wife **Sue** leave sunny Hong Kong for UK and MOD. We wish them both all the best for the future and hope they have an enjoyable tour.

WELCOMES

On 2 February **Maj R. S. Hewitt,** his wife and two children arrived. We have all heard through the grape vine that the Squadron Swimming and Badminton team will go from strength to strength. Welcome to sunny Hong Kong (yet again).

EXERCISE TRAILWALKER 8

This exercise is held annually. It is sponsored by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and organised by Queen's Gurkha Signals.

Trailwalker is a walk over all the high points in Hong Kong (not social) starting at Sai Kung and finishing in Perowne Barracks 100km on and within 48 hrs.

NT Troop finishing
Left to Right: Capt (QGO) Gambahadur, Maj T. E. M. Richardson, WO2 Chhetrabahadur, SSgt Ng and Chapman, Sig Wong, Lai and Lee Capt Sparshatt with his back to the camera at the finishing line

Maj T. E. M. Richardson presenting certificates to Sig Wong, Lai and Lee

The Squadron Commander who, at the time, was **Maj T. E. M. Richardson** insisted that each Troop enter a team.

The main Squadron team which consisted of the 'whippets' got off to a good start and were really pushing the pace until **Sig Mankumar Rai** slipped on the second day when the team was in third place. Unfortunately it only counts when all four team members finish; this left NT Tp to be the first complete team in with a commendable time of 23 hrs 8 mins. Not a bad time considering the conditions. The eventual winners were 10 Gurkha Rifles with a time of 13 hrs 30 mins.

NT TROOP

OC	**WO1 (FofS) Ramsay**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Chapman**

After our rest on Ping Chau it was time to think about a team for Trail Walker. Last year's team came from Radio Workshops so it was decided this year's team would be Telemechs. **Sig Lai Yuen Fung** and **Sig Lee Kwok Leung** were tasked with organising the team. They were seen forcibly dragging **Sig Wong Lap Hung** into the Troop Staff Sergeant's office and saying 'Here's the team'. 'Where's the fourth man?', was the reply. In unison the Troop Staff Sergeant was nominated—**SSgt Martin Chapman**.

After three training sessions and lots of discussions over 'Dim Sum' the day eventually came when we set off for the real thing. Then we were looking for a time of under 36 hrs. After going through four check points, which was about half way and the hardest part over, a time of under 24 hrs was within our sights. Eventually 23 hrs 8 mins was achieved this being the fastest time ever by NT Tp.

Our back-up consisted of **SSgt Ng Yeun Keung** and **Sig Kwong Yat Hung**. Both played a vital role, even if we couldn't wake them up at certain check points. It was always a good sight on approaching check points to see friendly faces with hot soup ready, especially at night, when the temperature dropped and the wind and rain really went to work. All the check points were manned by QG Signals personnel. Cheers lads for a job well done! By the way, well done the two WRAC teams from 247 which both finished. A great achievement.

FAREWELLS

Time has eventually come for **Sgt B. J. Finister** to leave Hong Kong after two years and eight months. We wish him all the best in NI and hope he does well on his Foremans Entrance Exam. We would like to be able to welcome his replacement. Is there a shortage of volunteers for Hong Kong?

Sig Lee, Lai, SSgt Chapman and Sig Wong at the start

NT Troop Team
L to R: SSgt Ng, Sig Wong, Lee, Lai, SSgt Martin Chapman and Sig Kwong

HQ Royal Brunei Armed Forces
BFPO 605

The strength of the Corps in Brunei will reduce to two by July this year. It currently stands at four and this is **Maj Ron Brodie**'s last contribution before he departs on posting to Loughborough.

As far as can be ascertained, the Headquarters of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces have been located in Berakas Camp since 1964. With the reorganisation which has followed the death of the **Seri Begawan** this is soon to change. By June this year a much expanded and civilianised Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) will move from the Istana to converted accommodation in Bolkiah Camp. Those members of the Corps who have been on Loan Service in Brunei will remember Bolkiah as the home of the Signal Training Wing. This has now moved to Penanjong Camp near Tutong along with the rest of the Training Centre, and the old HQ, Signal Training Wing, Clerks Wing and Recruit Coy accommodation has been converted for MINDEF.

The Corps two 'official' representatives, SO2 Comms **Maj Alistair Clark** and CPLA **WO1 (FofS) Terry Jack** will soon be able to experience the fruits of their labours (as well as the newly created traffic jam at Madang) when they move to their new location in Bolkiah. Having completely re-cabled the old camp, they await, with trepidation, the results. Will there be enough telephones? Will they work? Will the intercomm system work? (Will there be one!?). Don't be ridiculous, of course they might.

Maj Clark has in fact just handed over to the first Bruneian SO2 Comms **Maj Haji Jaafar**, who many will remember as OC Sig Sqn and laterly as OC Signal Training Wing. Being nimble on his feet as all small Scotsman are, **Maj Clark** has smartly side-stepped into the new post of SO2 Comms (Plans) with the aim of beginning the work necessary to integrate the communications due to enter service here in 1991. **Maj Clark** is due to be replaced in April 1989—TEM trained officers, who fancy a Loan Service tour, please note.

WO1 (FofS) Jack, now just completing his first year with the RBAF and having survived the 'conversion' has come close to meeting his match here but, not quite, despite regular 'roughing up' by the Procurement tender board. **Terry** has recently been selected for well deserved promotion to substantive WO1—well done.

The other two members of the Corps here won't be moving with MINDEF. **Maj Ron Brodie** will have left the State after three years on the Logistics Staff and will leave behind the legacy of a new edition of Material Regulations as part of his past labours. (At last; the mysteries of the Logistic system explained!). **Dot** and **Ron** were seen out in the usual Corps fashion at the Anchorage (smart new World Wide Club at Muara) and were wished well at Comms Sy Gp UK in Loughborough.

WO1 (FofS) Peter Bradley will remain at the Istana as a key member of the Sultan's own communications staff at Commcen Alpha. Congratulations are due to **Peter** on his recent selection for commissioning as a TOT. **Margaret** and **Peter** will leave Brunei in July, so bringing to a close what must be the longest Loan Service tour ever! Hopefully they will survive the climatic change as well as the shock of having to work for a living!

The Loan Service team here continues to reduce in numbers, as it should if it is doing its job properly. Corps representation is also dropping but it is anticipated there will be at least one member of the Corps here well into the 1990s. There will be an expansion of Loan Service as new equipments are introduced in the near future but this is likely to affect the RN and the RAF only.

Well, all 'our men in Brunei' have had a mention and it is time now to go on leave . . .

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THE END OF AN ERA

A personal message from **Col G. Barnett**.

For those of you who have served in Oman with what is now SAF Signals, you will be interested to know that command has always been exercised by a Royal Signals loan service officer. The first was **Capt D. Hopkins** in 1958 and I am the current holder. However, early in 1989 the post of Commander will transfer to an Omani, thus ending 30 years of British command.

We hope to mark the occasion by presenting the Corps with a suitable piece of Omani silver from all serving and Ex Royal Signals who have served in Oman. We, the current clan, invite you to contribute. If you wish to take part please send a UK cheque, made payable to me, as soon as possible, at: HQ SAF Signals, PO Box 1720, CPO SEEB, Sultanate of Oman. With thanks and regards **Gordon Barnett**.

News from Regiments

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

1 SQUADRON

EAGLE TROOP

Ex Flying Falcon for Eagle Tp began with a crash out of barracks in NBC medium, and we stayed in noddy kit for the next 14 days. The lads were ready to get stuck into a good warlike exercise, including live enemy. After 24 hours in location we were hit by the Heavies, RSM 7 Sig Regt and his band of authentically dressed Spetsnaz destroyed the node. What he didn't know was that our company of TA infantry in defence had already nailed them as they climbed out of the Landrover. We crashed out.

Being under command of a different OSC for the next move was different. As we drove along we sang the following song:

'Oh OSC 133
Looking after the morals of its men
Commcen-ed us on the top of a hill
and (30 minutes later) brought us down again'.

to the tune 'Grand Old Duke of York'.

The next few days passed in a blur of moving into and out of hides in woods six times in all, lightened only be events like the OC bogging in his Rover after taking a cross country short cut. Herforder's profits are high this year. The Radio Relay dets had a good exercise, spending their time foiling further attempts by the enemy to bump us. The Best Det competition was won by 041A with **LCpl Phil Kenworthy** and **Sig Frank Boyle**, although Node Command came a close second. **Sig 'Dippy' Dow** won a special prize for sleeping best. Down in the Node Home, **SSgt 'Gunny' Mills** kept up morale with his brand of cliche. The switch and SCC crews of **Cpl 'Wokka-Wokka' Peplow, Sig 'Egghead' Halbert, 'Punk Lives' Flood** and others deserve thanks for the most pan bashes. The grottiest NBC suits were worn by **Sig 'Paddy' Long** and the cook **LCpl Tye** (yuk).

Meanwhile on top of a hill **Cpl 'Bill' Brunton** and **Sig Mark Haines** were slowly dying of starvation waiting for replen from another trunk node. They eventually went to a US Army base where the women corporals were most helpful.

And so another Flying Falcon passed, and not even any snow.

Lots of changes in Eagle Tp recently, **Sig Frank Boyle** arrived from the makers and **Sig Ronnie Wood** from Blandford. On the way out were **Cpl Brunton** to 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Compo' Compton** to 28 Sig Regt and **LCpl 'Para' Gould** to TM Tp. Finally, congratulations to our Troop Staffy on his recent marriage.

FALCON TROOP

Falcon Tp as usual has been quite busy since our last *Wire* notes. Ex Flying Falcon has come and gone as has Ex Crested Eagle. A reasonably uneventful exercise, Crested Eagle ended on a very strange and unusual note. A day early. Teardown went surprisingly well considering the obvious disappointment of having to return to Verden a day early.

LCpl White returned recently with his driving licence, **Sig Grace** has been loaded on a driving course and in keeping with the tradition of leadership by example **SSgt Tom Patterson** ditched a rover. The Foden wasn't required this time and the farmer said he had planned on ploughing that ditch in the Spring anyway.

Cpl Jedd Harvey, the man who crashes anything from a bicycle to a switch, was recently seen practising his one point landings (the point being his nose) in front of the guardroom at one in the morning. Luckily there was a nice soft puddle to cushion his landing.

On a more sober note, congratulations to **Cpl Tes Brown** and his wife **Ilona** on the birth of their son, **Colin**. Any excuse to miss an exercise, eh?

The Troop bids farewell to **Sig White** who is off to greener pastures. The Garrison stables just won't be the same without you. Also leaving the Troop is **Cpl Kennedy**. Although it was questionable as to when and where **Cpl Kennedy** was going, 2 Sqn eventually came up as the gaining unit. We look forward to meeting you in all the competitions you've represented us in, in the past.

HAWK TROOP

We say farewell to **Sig 'Shirley' O'Neil** and **LCpl Kev Waters**. Welcome to **Sig Simon Haynes** and **LCpl 'Lofty' Cook**. **Lofty** has taken firm grip of the Troop, and there will now be a number of concessions made to those of below average height.

Any mention of February brings to mind memories of Flying Falcon. **LCpl 'Shear' Ali** wasn't on leave for this one. What is normally a snowbound Exercise turned out to be more mudbound—particularly for **LCpl Kev Waters** and **Sig Steve Lawlor**. Node 071 receive our golden shovel award for their burial-at-land performed on 061 E—plus **Kevin** and **Steve**. This illustrious pair have renamed their det 'desert island' due to this, and a lack of food received under the Herford resupply machine. On the subject, we thought OSC 135a Power Sergeant and friends might like to know that they may pop round for breakfast at 0300 hrs any time they like, but please leave some for poor 061 next time.

Finally, on the Deister, Greenpeace was horrified to find that 061 Radio Relay does not deploy with tactical porcelain conveniences.

Back to the relatively tame life of Verden, it soon became clear that **LCpl Nige Grabtree** was really an organised crime Baron. His young accuser obviously thought that 10 stone **Nigel** looked like a real barbarian.

We owe thanks to the Captain and crew of HMS *Ark Royal* for hosting the Troop on a visit in early March. All was well until **Cpl Neil James** was encouraged to lean over the bows (that's front to us) into the sea. The ships foghorn blew and nearly resulted in heart failure and a cold swim.

Farewell from Hawk Tp, TN 061, who look forward to this, and the next seven of eight summers in Verden.

KESTREL TROOP

At last we have solved our identification crisis and are TN 071 for now and evermore. Happy in this knowledge, we deployed on Ex Flying Falcon to a nice little location that luckily didn't need too much line laid as we had no linemen. From there, we moved to a hide location where we stayed a little longer than expected thanks to **LCpl 'windswept and interesting' Yeomans**, and **Sig 'Porky' Clement** who in turn took to the ditch at the front and rear of the convoy, thus leaving the remainder of us stuck in the middle.

Having repulsed an attack by 'the enemy', we moved back to the RCZ, a nice place where the sun shines, nobody wears NBC suits, and everyone is cheerful. All except **LCpl 'Fingers' Quinn** who became bored with hanging around, literally.

At the next move it was **Cpl 'I never bog em in' Pick** who decided to opt for recovery practice, this time in the dark, which led to the great 071 torch building competition. In the end it attracted seven entries. The winner was made out of an old low gain antennae and had the advantage that it could be put on a mast and used to line up the SHF as a secondary role.

LCpl 'Manny' Cohen then hit the spotlight with his experiment to see how far he could drive a Triffid without the sump drain plug. Meanwhile **LCpl 'Scouse' Jones** was inventing the Kero-burger which kept everyone regular for a day or two.

We eventually moved back east again to a veritable palace with showers, toilets, a kitchen and many other amenities which allowed us to clean up before the move home.

A special mention must be made of **Cpl Parkinson** who kept us and many others amused with the 071 Comic Strip, and to **LCpl 'Scouse' Jones** who fed us particularly well, especially at curry time.

Finally we say goodbye to **LCpl 'Manny' Cohen** who has left for civvy street, and extend a warm welcome to **LCpl Ramsay** who has joined us from Catterick.

2 SQUADRON

HELLO AND WELCOME

The Squadron has seen a lot of new faces in the last couple of months and would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following to the Squadron and hope they have an enjoyable tour with us: **Capt Mike Wise** and his wife **Rebecca, SSgt (SQMS) Stuart Price** and his wife **Viv, Sgt Norman Bain** and his wife **Jane, Cpl Dave Pick, LCpls Mark Hitchins, Paul Morris, Sig William-Appleton, Wyatt Earp, Joe Edwards, Michael Johnson, 'Tonker' Toys** and **Steve Weir.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Capt John Stuart** on his promotion and also to **WO2 (SSM) Jeff Ashwell** and **SSgt (FofS) Dean Allen** for their success in being selected for promotion on this years board. Also **LCpl Steve Lake** who has made the first rung on the ladder.

THE YEAR SO FAR

The year started with Ex Highland Malt 1 which passed without great traumas. The Squadron's next major task was to prepare for and deploy on Ex Flying Falcon. Just to try something different, the Squadron on its return from Flying Falcon launched straight into site guard training over the Regimental stand-down. During the training there was a 36 hour, no-canvas, exercise out on snowy Hohne training area. It seems that Hohne has two claims to fame, not only is the rain wetter in Hohne then anywhere else, but also landrovers sink deeper there as well! **SSgt Fred Hutchinson** stated that he'd seen worse conditions, but couldn't remember where. **LCpl 'Dill' Oliver** commented, 'It must be an age problem Staff'! After the training, Site Guard itself, was a doddle.

The Squadron still has a heavy exercise commitment for the rest of the year, so on with the training and preparation.

INTER-SQUADRON SPORTS

The results of the Inter-Squadron sports that have taken place in the last couple of months were not to our benefit, although the teams put up some fine performances.

The Squadron was unlucky in the hockey, which was held at Soltau, winning one and drawing two giving us a total of seven points along with two other teams in our league. We didn't make the next round of the competition as we had the lowest number of goals. The team was made up mainly of officers and seniors, who would do almost anything to miss an insurance lecture!

The orienteering was held near Osnabruck and on a Friday before an exercise so there wasn't a shortage of volunteers for the team. The only shortage was expertise. The result for a team where some runners were running for the first time was good, so watch out next year!

The Squadron is not well endowed with cross country runners either, so when it came to the cross country competition we had to hunt high and low for runners. The weather conditions were the worst they could have been for a 5 mile run, but this didn't dampen the spirits of our gallant team. They gritted their teeth, put up a good fight and ran a good race, (didn't come last though)!

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

ROVER TROOP

The year got off to a good start when on Ex Flying Falcon the GOC, **Maj Gen Swinburn**, visited 'Alpha' radio rebroadcast cluster on its hilltop site where he met **Cpl Bob Wilson** and **Sig 'Smudge' Smith**. Unfortunately, the GOC wasn't convinced that the shell scrapes in the location were deep enough. After some rapid digging by **Sig Smith** the scrapes were greatly improved. The GOC commented on his departure that they were a lot better, saying 'Good. Now you can kill the enemy from them'. A somewhat breathless **Sig Smith**'s only reply was 'Right Sir'. The GOC and the RSM then decided to visit **Cpl 'Flexi-Grid' Marshall** but, due to his excellent camouflage and concealment, they couldn't be found. Well done **Cpl Marshall**, although we don't think its done your career any good.

PAPA TROOP

Due to Site Guard the Squadron was unable to enter a team for the 1 Div SAAM meeting in March, Papa Tp however was able to enter a team in the falling plate competition. The team led by **Sgt Norman Bain**, did very well to reach the semi-final as it had very little opportunity to train.

MT TROOP

During these past two months MT Tp has been fairly active. Flying Falcon came and went with surprisingly good weather and hardly any snow. After all the fun and games of cleaning up after the execise, the Troop said farewell to a few 'staunch members'. First was **LCpl 'Ninja' Downs**, who travels all the way down the corridor to Papa Tp and **Sig 'Lester' Piggot' Wood**, who goes back up to the stables for another four months.

Site Guard was a fairly hard week for the horizontal brothers, **LCpl Grant Morgan** and **Sig 'Julie' Drewitt** who have devised a new approach to low intensity operations.

TM TROOP

Last November **Cpl Pete 'Peewee' Howson**, a radio technician of this prestigious Troop submitted one of the 126,000 entries for the bi-annual road safety competition. The competition was open to members of the Federal Armed Forces and Allied Forces in West Germany and consisted of answering seven simple questions on road safety. To his surprise (not mentioning the rest of us, who know what his driving is really like), he won first prize, a two week skiing holiday in Davos, Switzerland. To receive his prize he had an all expenses paid

All set for his skiing holiday Cpl Pete 'Peewee' Howson

Cpl Pete 'Peewee' Howson with the other winners in Bonn

trip to Bonn, where he was presented with it by the Parliamentary State Secretary for the Armed Forces, Herr Fray Hurlandburing.

The holiday for two just happened to be over one of our major exercises of the year, 'Flying Falcon', so after being turned down by all his female friends, **'Peewee'** had to look elsewhere for a companion. There was no shortage of volunteers in the Troop, and **Sgt Phil 'I love skiing' Cox** who had just returned from two weeks on Snow Queen became the lucky holiday companion. **Sgt Phil Cox** at this moment is skiing yet again on a two week skiing instructors course.

STOP PRESS

During the recent 'Active Edge' he managed to put all his knowledge to the ultimate test and managed to overturn the technicians trailer in the nearby local garage. It will be a long time before he forgets the first half of 1988!

3 SQUADRON

The first exercise of the year succeeded in shaking the cobwebs out of everybody's hair and reminded them that it is back to work now. There must have been some divine intervention over the weather conditions for Ex Flying Falcon as there was no snow, the QM's department has slipped up there, however we were assured it will be delivered in time for Easter.

A major diplomatic incident was avoided by the fact that there was no spare 'towing hook' on Flying Falcon or 'Stavross' would have hitched up a caravan that he'd found informing everybody that it must be spare if there is nobody living in it!

The Squadron has had a slow start in the Page Trophy sports competition not winning either the Hockey or Cross Country, however after the success at the Skill at Arms meeting where **Sig 'Scouse' Bennett** was runner up B Class shot overall and a team consisting of 'OC Sqn', **FofS 'Chuddy' Richardson, LCpl 'Dean' Haynes** and **Sig 'Scouse' Bennett** won the Falling Plate competition. A warning to the other Squadrons, 'We've got a piece of silver on the shelf now and the bit is firmly between our teeth for the remaining sports competitions'.

There has been a fine crop of phrases not attributable to any one individual since the beginning of the year and here is a selection:-

'What's wrong with having 14 cups of team at breakfast'?
'You've eaten all of that bread I've just put down'.
'I fired four scored two that's 50% so I stopped'.
'There is nothing wrong with 17 hours sleep straight through'.

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Since the beginning of the year the Squadron has said farewell to the following people:- **Capt Frank Roberts** to JDSC then 13 Sig Regt, and **Capt Mike Wise** off just across the road to be 2IC 2 Sqn and Div Recce Officer, **SSgt Stu Price** over to 2 Sqn as SQMS, **Sgt Dave Harman** to 1 Inf Bde, **LCpls Steve Behan** to 30 Sig Regt, **'Pepi' Fernandez** to 249 Sig Sqn, **'Big Ollie' Oliver** to 14 Sig Regt and also congratulations on his marriage. The final farewells are to **Sig 'Red' Constable** to 14 Sig Regt and **'Loui' Ganes** to 30 Sig Regt on promotion. The Squadron wishes them all the best of luck in their new jobs.

The new arrivals in the Squadron are:- **SSgt 'Chuddy' Richardson** from Blandford; welcome, and here is *The Wire* notes file. **Sgt Dave King** from 11 Sig Regt, welcome, and here's the shooting team file. **Cpl Andy Bailey** from 1 Inf Bde, **LCpl John Derman** from School of Signals and finally **Sig 'Dusty' Miller** from 3 Div. The Squadron wishes you and your families a happy tour in Verden.

FAREWELL TO THE GARRISON COMMANDER

The Regiment also said farewell to the Garrison Commander and Commander Royal Artillery, **Brig I. G. Townsend**. When he paid his farewell visit to 3 Sqn, **LCpl Hogg** the Arty Plans Detachment Commander took the opportunity to present him with a small memento of his time with the Regiment.

201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde) BFPO 30

The past few months have seen major changes in the Stag Sqn. Several people have left for pastures new and to them all we extend our best wishes for the future and our thanks for their contribution to the Squadron during their tours. They are namely:- **SSgt Willie Dott** (now WO2) to the Regiment, **SSgt Pete Stemmer** to 633 Sig Tp, **Sgt Kev Jones** to 4 Sig Tp (finally), **Cpl Terry Petherbridge** (now Sgt) to 1 Royal Irish, **Sgt Neil Tootell** to the Regiment, **Cpl 'Gaz' Stevens** to civvy street, **Sig Roy Dowington** (now LCpl) to 14 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Tiny' Purnell** to 20 Armd Bde and **Pte Julie Rogers** (now LCpl) to 12 MOD P1 WRAC.

New arrivals in the Squadron are:- **SSgt (FofS) Jay Allen, SSgt Dave Showell, Sgt 'Hoppy' Hopkins, LCpls Robert Giffard, Ian Kitson, William Webb, Ptes William Gaughan, Michael Johnson, Sig Allen, McGiveron, Jason Raybould** and **WPte Michelle Martin**, welcome to them all and their families.

REGIMENTAL SAAM

The Squadron, as in the past, hosted this event on 14/15 March under the watchful eye of **WO (SSM) Mick Boyle**. Despite typical Hohne weather the shooting team came through to achieve some notable successes. Again the Stag Sqn won the Champion Squadron Cup and the following were individual winners:- Champion at Arms **Cpl Chris Rix (RPC)**, Runner up **LCpl Nick Basford**, Best 'B' Class shot **LCpl Nick Basford**, LMG Team Match **Sig Sean Walsh** and **Pte Steve Kay (RPC)**, Young Officer Match **Lt Howard Flint**.

Competition amongst the team membes was fierce, with five of the team running for the Champion at Arms shield. **LCpl 'Bouser' Bousfield** was leading throughout the competition until **Cpl Chris Rix** and **LCpl Nick Basford** pipped him at the post on the last detail. The meeting involved the whole Squadron in the administration and smooth running of the various shooting matches, which was a great success. We now look forward to further success at the Divisional SAAM in April.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON/MORNING GLORY

After the Squadron had been put through its paces on Ex Highland Malt by the OC **Maj Roger Batho** we deployed as eager as ever on Ex Flying Falcon/Morning Glory. Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps objectives for the exercise were to prove demanding for all. The weather at least was to remain kind to us compared with previous Flying Falcons (remember 86/87)? However, we deployed initially in typical exercise weather with the first snow of the year.

The exercise tested communications and defence to the full. Just as the YofS, **WO2 Jim Sykes** was being informed that, at last, a stand-by shot had been established, the Brigade HQ's was crashed out, due to an attack by Orange Forces, led by the intrepid mercenary **WO1 (RSM) Hickling** from 7 Sig Regt. To improve the movement time of the HQ's the SSM, **WO2 Mick Boyle** decided to move his command post (9 × 9 containing three sleeping bags) to the new location prior to our impending move. Yes, you guessed it, we never moved there. Next morning the German population were treated to an unusual sight of a lone 9 × 9 in the middle of their village. **Sgt Steve Somers** and **Cpl Bob Anthony** were despatched at first light to recover the said tent!

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

During this busy period the Squadron has maintained its policy in participating in all possible sporting activities with the following results.

HOCKEY

In the Regimental Page Trophy, Hockey captained by **Sig Dave Jack**, in appalling weather conditions at Soltau, the Squadron reached the semi-finals where it was beaten, in a hard fought match 3—0 by HQ Sqn.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Squadron team led by **Lt Howard Flint** was the runner-up in the Brigade Championships to 1 Armd Field Ambulance.

RUGBY AND FOOTBALL

Although no major prizes came our way this session the teams coached by **Capt Bob Sharp** and **SSgt Clive Tepielow** continue to play regularly with some good results in friendly matches against major and minor units.

SPORTING PERSONALITIES

Sig Michael Turnbull was already a Judo expert before joining the Army. In 1984, at the age of 14 at Crystal Palace, fighting at under 50kg in the British youth trials, he was placed fifth.

Sig Michael Turnbull joined the Army in June 1985 and attended the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate where he helped coach the college Judo team and achieved his College Colours and the highest sporting achievement—a College Cap for Judo.

He arrived in the Squadron in June 1987 and soon showed his form, coming second in the under 65kg, in the inter-services. Since then he had won a gold medal at the under 65kg in the IBA (International Bushido Association) National Championships. A gold medal in the under 65kg and was placed third in the open class under 71kg at the BAOR Judo Championships. As a result of his success he was selected to represent BAOR, in the Army Championships at Aldershot, where he was placed third.

Sig Michael Turnbull proudly displaying his recently won trophies

PROMOTIONS

Our warmest congratulations to the following recently selected for promotion. To WO1, **WO2 (SSM) Mick Boyle**. To WO2, **SSgts John Riley, Clive Tepielow** and **Pete Stemmer**. To Sgt, **Cpls Terry Petherbridge** and **'Tich' Wright**.

FIREMAN FRANK

Our congratulations also go to **Sgt Frank Campbell** on obtaining an A grade on his Unit Fire NCO's Course.

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We have said goodbye to OC B Tp, **Lt 'Bogger' Felton** in February and 2IC, **Capt Charles Turner** in March, both of whom leave on posting to Northern Ireland. Verboa Club functions will surely miss the bow ties and debonair manner.

Congratulations to **WO2 (YofS) Drake** who departs for 2 Inf Div as WO1 (YofS) later this year; and to **SSgt (SQMS) Hollis** who also leaves on promotion, going as WO2 (SSM) 7 Sig Regt in June.

Other departures are **Cpl Dave Keevash** to 39 Inf Bde, **Cpl Alex Gunn** to 249 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Eddleston** to 19 Inf Bde, **Sig Chris Mutton** to 20 Armd Bde, and **Sig Marshall** on promotion to 21 Sig Regt. Good luck also to **LCpls Gibbs** and **Oldfield** who move back to Verden to join 2 Sqn. Finally, a warm welcome to **Lt Matthew Edwards** who arrived from Blandford as these notes were being written.

SPORT

The Squadron continues to achieve good results following a strict regime of zero practice and last minute team selection. The football team, under the supervision and leadership of **Cpl Dave Simpson**, inches ever closer to the Divisional League Championships with 7 league wins from 7 games so far, and a run of 14 consecutive victories. Well done all and keep it up.

The hockey team failed to win the quarter finals of the BAOR Minor Units Hockey Championships after losing to 14 Topo Sqn RE. Watch out next year for an improved result!

Our outstanding success of the period was that of the orienteering team, earning fame and credibility by failing even to find the start of the Page Trophy Competition under the supervision of reputedly world-class orienteerer **LCpl Graham Oldfield**. Well done boys. There is no truth in the rumour that this is the reason for **LCpl Oldfield**'s posting to 2 Sqn! Fortunately the Squadron redeemed its image somewhat at the Regimental Skill-at-Arms Meeting where on a snow bound range and after a comprehensive period of two days practice, the A team achieved fourth position overall with several excellent individual placings. A good result as the team had come straight off exercise. We look forward to a good result in the Divisional Skill-at-Arms meeting.

We now turn our eyes towards athletics, swimming and, of course, the finals of the football.

EXERCISES AND MILITARY TRAINING

This month saw the Squadron enjoying the delights of the SLTA for a week in extraordinary weather conditions—blue skies, followed by snow, followed by rain, followed by blue skies . . . someone definitely failed in the execution paragraph of the admin order! Nevertheless, it was a successful exercise despite the mud.

The Squadron has now just embarked on an intensive two week period of military training. Rumour has it that the Chief Clerk, **Sgt 'Scouse' Mahoney**, is to take over as drill instructor . . .

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, Combined Service Publications, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

212 Sig Sqn (12 Armd Bde)
BFPO 36

Ex Flying Falcon was as good as ever. **LCpl 'Bomber' Brown** kept saying before the exercise that he'd never missed a Flying Falcon. Sure enough, the second day of the exercise he was sent back to camp with a bad back.

As for **Sgt 'Tufty' Holden**, he only decided to come on exercise for the last four days. Then there's **Sig 'Titch' Purvis** who likes falling off the back of rovers going at more than 40kph while trying to catch a set of ladders, that the wind blew off, and that's on a main road as well!

FAREWELLS

Goodbye to **LCpl 'Maggot' Blyth** who has gone to sunny 22 Sig Regt in Lippstadt and **Cpl 'Wayne' Freeman** who is going to NI. **Cpl Errol Bekret** gets married on 11 April and goes straight on his T1 afterwards. All the best from the Troop, and welcome to the hapless **Sig 'Titch' Purvis**.

PAPA TROOP

An 18 year old's outlook on adult life in Osnabruck.

I arrived in the Squadron from basic training on 14 January. I was immediately taken through the tedious motions of getting settled in. I was taken round the various heads of department by **Cpl 'Taff Relic' Walters**. After filling in the necessary forms, I was then told I was going on Ex Highland Malt 1 and that I could put into practice what I had learnt at Catterick. This I found very interesting, and it was a more realistic situation as opposed to sitting in a classroom all day. The exercise also gave me a chance to see how a Signal Squadron worked at Brigade level. My Det Comd for the exercise **Cpl 'Jock' Laird**, a rather rotund cheerful Scot.

So after the exercise I thought it was time for a bit of socialising and getting to know some of the lads in the Squadron. I met the infamous two jocks, **Sig 'Jock' Dougan** and **'Jock' McKinnie** and **Sig 'I don't know where to put my hands' O'Brien** to name but a few.

So now here I am, **Sig Steve Girling**, three months later and after a few more exercises, quite a few really, writing notes for *The Wire*. Just think, only another three years seven months before I'm posted. I would like to thank **LCpl Tom Hoare** for helping me compile these.

OSCAR TROOP

The Troop has had a busy start to the year. On Ex Highland Malt 1/88 we practised for Ex Flying Falcon, so we were ready for anything the Commander could throw at us, or were we? When Flying Falcon eventually came we discovered the awful truth. The Commander was obviously tired of having to move over to Papa Tp, so would be staying with us all the time. Thus dawned a week of 12 and 6 hourly moves and other good ideas. On being told that the cookhouse was being sent to Alternate, **Lt Richard 'Golden Mess Tin' Butlin** was seen to weep openly. The staff officers did the same on being thrown a box of compo and a petrol stove and told to get on with it. Even this failed to cheer up **Sig James 'Sad On' Edgley**, whose fits of depression could only be cured by a pack of biscuits and eight hours sleep. The Radio Relay crew, led by **LCpl Eric 'No we didn't believe it either' Bristow**, coped well with the pressure and even persuaded a farmer to let him sleep in his chicken coop. The chickens, however, got a rate rebate because of it.

With vehicles running up more miles than Paris-Dakar competitors, the breakdowns soon started with even **Cpl Eddie 'My last exercise' Raine**'s vehicle giving up once. It seemed at one point that it only needed the Troop OC to look at a vehicle for it to breakdown. The unhappiest crew at a breakdown were **Cpl Peter 'Why me'? Scott** and **Sig Bill 'Wake me up when it is all over' Johnson** who got one on Endex day—some guys have all the luck.

When we finally got back to camp a fast turn around was essential—not for another exercise but for the pose event of the year:- The annual Troop photo taken by **Cpl Errol 'David Bailey' Bekret**.

Back row L to R: Sig Dowdle, Preece, LCpl Pendrich, Sig Downing, Dean, Boorman, LCpl Moffat, Cpl Wiltshire, Sig Edgley, Johnson 002
Middle row L to R: Sig Fleming, Cpl Raine, LCpls Scott, Hutchinson, Sig Jameson, Cpl Smith, LCpl Hatton, Sig Kirk, Cpls Westall, Clark
Front row L to R: Sgt Wickham, Lt Butlin

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

On the 4 March, 16 members of 2 Inf Div headed north to the icy wastes of Inverness, armed only with suitcase, wallet and burning desire to hurtle down vast slopes of ice. Ex Northern Slopes was designed to introduce novices to the art of downhill skiing.

Aviemore was our venue and the conditions were typical. The mountains were covered with a thick layer of ice, winds were so strong that Newton's laws were no longer obeyed (the sight of skiers being blown backwards, uphill was not uncommon) and visibility was so poor that it proved difficult to see the end of our skis.

Regardless of these conditions, the week proved highly enjoyable. **Lt Chris Patterson, Capt Sandy Aitken** and **Sig 'Rick' Keeble** all did their best to win the coveted 'best wipe-out on the White-Lady' Award; but **Sig Keeble** pipped them to the post by ripping one out whilst performing a freefall ski display.

Everyone gained a lot from the experience—whether it was how to ice-ski or how ski-navigate in white-out conditions. A most rewarding week!

DINING IN

Lt Col J. H. Griffin was dined into the York Station Sergeants' Mess on Thursday 17 March 1988.

What a night of fine food, good company and first class music provided by the Corps Band. The dinner was arranged by the PMC **WO2 (SSM) Harrison** who deserves a 'pat on the back' for a first class evening.

The RSM opened his speech of welcome to our new CO with one of his jokes (if that's the right word). The Colonel responded by telling a good joke himself before going on to more serious topics.

WO1 (RSM) O'Brien presenting a picture of the complete soldier to Lt Col J. H. Griffin

YORK HALF MARATHON

The clerks of RHQ must surely rate as the fittest bunch of clerks in the Corps. Every Tuesday and Thursday lunch time, led from the front by the ORS **Neil Bartlett,** the clerks are out running. It all started when **SSgt Paul Smith** (Families Officer then ORS) suggested that they 'try something different'. One of the clerks responded, 'Sounds like a good idea', and that is how the RHQ clerks came to be standing in a rain-soaked crowd on Sunday 27 March, waiting to start the York Half Marathon. The race was started by a 25 pounder which really got the adrenalin going. The run wound its way around the countryside, into the city centre and past York Minster, out of the town and into the outlying districts of York. The weather, never very kind in this part of the world, lived up to expectations with rain, wind, hail and sun, sometimes all at once, hampering the runners.

The York race course was the start and finish of the race, and the last half mile must be the longest half mile in the world. Now we know what it feels like to finish the Derby!

The Regiment fared very well overall considering the high standard of competition, with **LCpl Mark Vile** finishing tenth overall in a time of 68 minutes.

We would also like to congratulate **Pte Lyn Naylor** for a magnificent run, finishing in a time of 2 hours 11 minutes was not bad considering it was her first run of any distance—and she says she hates running! Well done **Lyn** , see you in London next year!

The RHQ Olympic Squad. Where's the 2IC?

Half way round and still smiling Sgt (now SSgt) Neil Bartlett

'Never Again' Pte Lynn Naylor after 13 miles

POSTSCRIPT

Congratulations to **SSgt Neil Bartlett** (author of above) on his recent promotion. We all hope you enjoy your tour at 210 Sig Sqn.

210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt Adam Hearn**
AO/OC Sup Tp	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
2IC Sup Tp	**Lt Andrew Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Neil Bartlett**

AIRMOBILITY

The Squadron has changed role and is now part of the British Army's Airmobile Brigade. Effective from 1 April 1988 (we are assured that there is no significance in the date). As well as a new role we also have a new OC, 2IC and Chief Clerk; a warm welcome to them all. The Squadron has been extremely busy converting to its new role and as you will see from the reports below life with Support Helicopters and those who fly them is very different.

AIRMOB HQ

The Squadron will be operating an HQ of four vehicles which will be moved forward by Chinook MSH (Medium Support Helicopter). A road tail consisting of the other HQ vehicles will follow on behind. The organisation has been changed to reflect our new role. We now have a Radio Tp commanded by **Lt Andy Duncan** and a Support Tp commanded by **Capt Mick Besant** with **Lt Andrew Fletcher** as Troop 2IC.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

Within a few days of the arrival of our new leader the Squadron set off for BAOR and the joys of another FF. We staged through 35 Engr Regt barracks in Hameln and were joined by our new 2IC. This meant that we had two 2ICs; the potential for disaster was tremendous.

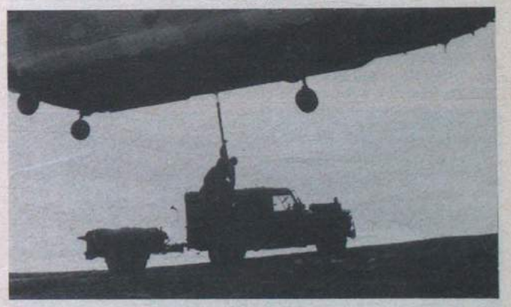
It was not long before the changes started to filter down the chain of command. We began to practise our new airmobile role . . . . 4 vehicles, 15 men . . . and no cooks! It was also decided that the Squadron Echelon would be better detached from the main HQ. With many a fond farewell and not a few tearful waves **Capt 'is my wagon powered up yet'? Besant** led his organisation away from the cold wet woods and barns into York Barracks Munster for the rest of the exercise (our thanks to 204 Sig Sqn). The rest of the exercise followed the normal pattern and was only raised from the level of a vulgar brawl by the excellent locations found for us by our new 2IC and recce officer (and *Wire* notes author).

EXERCISE GRYPHONS WINGS

This was the Brigade Support Helicopter Concentration on Catterick Training Area and our first chance to practise with the real things. Our newly qualified HHIs and landing point teams were kept busy rigging vehicles and marshalling helicopters and the Brigade HQ was moved swiftly around the countryside, the photos speak for themselves. A very valuable time was had by all and many lessons were learnt.

Take your marks

Ready!



Steady!

Go!

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

The past couple of months have been busy with most Squadrons and departments involved in the large number of exercises. The major exercise was Ex Flying Falcon which took place in February and involved the whold regiment deployed in a Corps Communications Exercise.

There was no let up on the return to Barracks either. Various elements of the regiment were involved in Ex Close Encounter, Winter Sales and Crested Eagle. Everyone returned to camp to yet more work, this time, preparation for the Royal Signals Inspection Team. Thankfully now, things have calmed down and life is returning to normal.

In RHQ, we say farewell to **WCpl Jane Currie** who is off to Wilton, and wish her all the best in her forthcoming marriage to **Mark**. We welcome **WCpl Dormer** who has moved over from the Divisional Headquarters.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj H. A. Ross**
2IC	**Capt L. Carr**
OC W Tp	**Lt I. P. Birleson**
OC X Tp	**Lt A. H. Rodgers**
OC Y Tp	**Lt L. Campbell-Black**
OC Z Tp	**Lt P. Evans**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Dobson**

Life has been very hectic for the Squadron in the past couple of months. Before Flying Falcon, the OC, 2IC and members of the Regimental Ops Cell attended an OSC Study Day in Herford and then returned in the thick of Flying Falcon. The exercise passed quickly and we were then back to routine tasks.

Range days were held in preparation for the Regimental SAAM at the end of March—this was later to prove in vain.

Crested Eagle involved a trunk node from the Squadron and signalled that the end of the exercise season was in sight.

The SAAM was held at the end of March and despite the practice put in by the Squadron, we managed to come last! Better luck next year!

On the postings and promotion side of life, we say farewell to **Sgt Richard Griffiths** who has gone to Blandford to attend his Foremans Course; **Lt Pete Smith** who has also gone to Blandford to join Satcom Tp, 30 Sig Regt; and **Lt Lyndon Campbell-Black** who leaves us to join 202 Sig Sqn. We welcome **2Lt Dave Kinniard** from TC 11 and wish him luck during his time with us.

Promotions have seen **SSgt Mick Gaffney** picked up on the WO2 Board; **Sgt Phil Atkinson** on the SSgt Board; and **SSgt Gillam** who has picked up his substantive rank.

Finally congratulations to **Capt Len Carr** on his promotion!

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj K. W. Goodfellow**
2IC/OC T Tp	**Capt K. Whitehead**
OC I Tp	**2Lt T. J. S. Allen**
OC R Tp	**2Lt S. J. P. Spiers**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) McCormick**

Flying Falcon has drawn the normal spate of comments. **Sig Cowen**, on being asked to help get comms in on his net after a two hour delay was heard to say 'But sir, I'm on guard'. A classic from **Sig Bentley** was 'The problem is that you can hear them; they can hear you; but you can't hear each other'!, and the Man of the Match Award goes to **2Lt Tim Allen** for his powers of understanding. On hearing the OC, **Maj Lynam** talking about the MAN at Corps; **Tim** understood this to be a Man at corps and not the Main Access Node!

23 February saw the dining out of **Maj David Lynam** witha marathon speech. We welcome **Maj Keith Goodfellow**, wife **Janet** and daughter **Catherine**and wish them all the best for their stay in Korbecke.

A military training week was held in March and congratulations go to **LCpl Bishop** for winning the Governor's Bowl. Ex Royal Surprise and IS exercise took place. Thanks go to **SSgt Seamus O'Jenkins**; and **Paddy McMunro** for their endeavour to 'visit' the Squadron.

In the regimental SAAM, 2 Squadron did well, winning the LMG Match; Ind 'B' Shot; Ind Best Shot; and LMG 'B' Pair; as well as coming second overall. **Sig 'Geordie' Asprey**, having won four trophies, will now go forward with **Cpl Lynch**, to represent the Regiment in the Div SAAM.

2Lt Simon 'But I was in RHQ and the PRI' Spiers had a good month. On a recce for his forthcoming Troop Border Patrol, whilst indulging in a spot of R & R, **2Lt Spiers** managed to split his forehead open. Cries of 'Man from Atlantis' have now been heard around the Squadron!

We welcome into the Squadron **Cpl Tye, LCpls Smillie** and **Moore, Capt Whitehead**—the Squadron had almost forgotten him so needed to be reintroduced. Welcome back **Keith**. We say farewell to **LCpls Robinson** and **Widdecombe**—good luck in their new postings.

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj R. V. J. Brannigan**
2IC/OC S Tp	**Capt G. M. Smith**
OC N Tp	**Lt A. J. Stringer**
OC P Tp	**Capt M. Shaw**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Coker**

A very quiet two months in the Squadron apart from the inevitable exercises. Brows have now been mopped as the RSIT Team have gone—life can return to normal. There has been a spate of postings in and out. We say farewell to **Cpl Gilmartin, Sig Harris, Luge, Cpls Patten, Beech** and **Rice** and welcome **LCpl Allan, Cpls Clayton, Kylie, Clarkson** and **Sig Stott**.

The latest update on our mountaineering expert **Capt Simon Lowe** is that BSEE '88 is well over half way up the mountain; and with the weather holding up hopes are high for a successful bid on the summit of Everest. We wish **Simon** all the best.

One final bit of news is that we are hosting a visit of Cadets this week. Two contingents from Powys and Oxfordshire have joined us for ten days and are at present involved in a busy programme of visits to various units.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Siq Sqn
BFPO 16

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj D. J. Proctor**
2IC	**Capt G. R. Mason**
OC Ardennes Tp	**Capt M. A. Eaton**
OC Rhine Tp	**Capt N. A. W. Pope**

Apart from the multitude of exercises that seem to have occurred over the past two months, 202 has again managed to fit in the odd sporting activity.

Notable achievements have been, runners up in the Divisional Squash (the team being **Capt Mason, SSM Budden, LCpl Simmons, Cpl Emmerson** and **LCpl Mitchell**). **Sgt Foster** coming eighth overall in the Divisional Cross Country League. Rugby—runners up in the Divisional Seven's Plate and members of the Squadron reaching the quarter finals of the sevens competition.

Capts Mason, Pope and **Sgt Anderson** were all dined out—a remarkable occasion as **Capt Mason** was not wearing a tracksuit for the occasion.

On the subject of clothing, with the advent of **Julia**, our new YTS girl in the Orderly Room, **LCpls Martin** and **Didcott** look more presentable. Rumour has it that even a comb has been in use. Obviously there is something in the saying 'blonde hair and blue eyes . . .'.

We say farewell to **Sgt Evans, Cpl Preece, LCpls Dean, Goodwin, Haynes, McDonnagh, Sig Medford, Moffat** and **Morris**. We wish them all the best. And hello to **2Lt Prior, LCpl Martin** (from 3 Squadron), **Cpls Gosney, Emmerson, LCpls Blackwall, Duncan** and **Pte Kennedy**.

And finally congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Budden** on his selection for WO1 and **SSgt Haslam** on his selection for WO2.

204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

OC	**Maj A. J. Poppleton**
2IC	**Capt D. A. Jones**
OC O Tp	**Lt N. J. Griffiths**
OC P Tp	**2Lt F. E. R. Whichelo**

NORDIC SKIING

The Squadron Team took part in the Divisional Nordic Ski Meet in Fulpmes in January and won the minor unit event. In preparation for the races the team spent three weeks in Norway.

EX EDEL IRON III—AUSTRIA

The return to fitness in January was achieved by painfully intensive sessions locally and included roller skiing and shooting.

It was a rather tired group which set off for Austria. Only two vehicles—Skippy our blue Rover with kangaroo motifs and a new, deadlier 'Dean Machine'—were needed as only six team members were to attend the Meet. **SSgt Tanner** and two other members of the team gracefully sacrificed their Austrain trip and so eased the expense for the racers.

On arrival, the chances of us racing, appeared slim. The valley was consistently green with only occasional patches of slush to suggest we were in the 'depth of an Alpine winter'. It was almost T-shirt and sunglasses time. **2Lt Fred Whichelo** made himself popular by maintaining the team's fitness with—yes, you guessed it—a run! He had a point though, as little else would stun the party into action, after their introduction to the local night life.

Eventually the cry went up, from somewhere near the Italian border, snow! The races were on.

The first race, the 10Km relay, saw us wishing we'd practised 'double-poling' a little more in Norway. With the exception of our 'saviour' **Cpl Jimmy Dean** we all found the experience devastating (sobering in **Sig Shaun Wilkes'** case)! We did win the Minor Unit event though and celebrated on the way back with the inevitable Big Mac—or two.

Previous to the event we had all waxed our skis. This simply involves melting wax onto the front and rear 'gliding area' of the ski. the excess is later scraped from the ski's surface.

2Lt Fred Whichelo had been out in the garage for some time and **Sig J. T. Thomas** wondered aloud, 'Does he know you only have to wax the front and back'. 'Of course, I don't think he's that dim', said **Cpl Dean**, ever confident in his leader!

The next day a voice piped up, 'I don't suppose it really matters too much if you wax the whole ski . . . does it'?

Despite such setbacks and the frequent destruction of poles in the races the team came second, then first Minor Unit, in the 15Km and Biathlon Relay events. Consequently we approached the Patrol Race as leading Minor Unit with 6 Armd Workshops snapping at our heels. 6 Armoured were our rivals throughout, but were great sportsmen and excellent company.

Dressing for the Patrol Race was reminiscent of a wedding—mostly borrowed and lot of old! The only new items of equipment were some stunningly bobble-hats which really stole the show and still excite comment two months on!

At this point we must thank the many people who succumbed to our begging, borrowing, battering or to **2Lt Whichelo**'s particularly effective 'lost little boy' impression. The 22 Sig Regt and 3ADSR teams freely lent equipment and advice, without which we would have been at a loss. **Capt Phil Brown**, of 22 Sig Regt, was particularly helpful throughout. **WO2 Southern** and **QMSI Jim Wood** were our special friends among the organisational staff, and secured us a complete set of Patrol rucksacks. Many thanks to you all.

So back to the Patrol Race. Once the laughter had subsided we set off the chase 6 Armoured's time over the 20Km course. We had not trained with rucksacks previously, and it showed. Our stylish skating was rapidly reduced to a bimbling diagonal gate as we slogged up the hill. Coming down the other side was worse! Even on the second lap **2Lt Fred Whichelo** and **Sig J. T. Thomas** emerged from the forest whiter than white!

The shooting saw us equal the 6 Armoured's score but we were some way behind on time. A final sprint around the finishing loop was only enough to secure second place.

No matter, we had won the Minor Unit competition and a host of trophies. Ten wonderful days—an experience not to be forgotten.

The inspection prior to the patrol race. 2Lt Fred Whichelo's 'Thing' traps the inspectors hand as Sig J. T. Thomas and Cpl Jimmy Dean look on. Sig Shaun Wilkes makes eyes at Cpl Dean's shoes

And they're off! Cpl Jimmy Dean leads out on the patrol race

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

ALPHA ONE TROOP

The main event over the past couple of months has not been, surprisingly, the arrival of a new, thrusting Troop OC eager for crowded shoulder boards and a larger pay cheque, but Ex Flying Falcon.

Two weeks of intense pressure coupled with the trauma of being torn from their usual role of tactical area cleaning, induced a few personality crises within A1 Tp. **Sig Crabb** developed the personality, (if not the body), of Charles Bronson playing in 'Deathwish'. Having first tried to incinerate himself, the crewman and anyone else who happened to be in the packet by parking his burning panzer in a petrol station whilst extinguishing the flames, he then lived up to his aquatic name and attempted to enter the Weser river with his panzer and a somewhat perturbed **2Lt Cubbin**. Surprisingly, this did not overly affect **2Lt Cubbin** who still managed to force himself to get the required 14 hours sleep a day, like the dedicated professional that he is.

Sig 'Eddie' Waring and **LCpl 'No Comms' Cairns** both decided to become 'Invisible Men' and disappear from their respective nets; **Sig Waring** with the tried and trusted 'Where's all my crypto gone'? trick and **LCpl Cairns** through an uncanny instinct for not getting through, honed to perfection by years of not practising in his spare time.

However, the Troop was not only affected by a mild state of schizophrenia. Following the Army's decision to reintroduce 'Agony Aunts', A1 Tp's own Miss Cheesy Parts signed on for the duration of the exercise, with her own column in the Papa Rag, (said by one Staff Officer to be the best thing to come out of the exercise). Problems such as men only finding their wives attractive if they dressed up in Urban Cam and barbed wire, were dealt with daily in her own caring and inimitable style. Thought by many to be frustrated **Sig Pickering** in drag, she mysteriously disappeared before Endex, evoking rumours that she had accepted a ride in **Crabb**'s panzer and had not been lucky enough to survive the experience.

The Troop performed very well under a considerable amount of pressure and is to be congratulated on its efforts. However, thanks must also be extended to A2 Tp 3 Sqn, who helped us, to help ourselves, to whatever we needed to keep the panzers on the road. Cheers lads.

Finally, the Troop is losing **Sig 'Pickers' Pickering** and **LCpl 'Mac' McCormick** to pastures new. **'Pickers'** is, by his own admission, the most experienced Lance Corporal without a stripe in the Troop, whilst **'Mac'** is undoubtedly the only man in the Troop with any knowledge of assaulting Radio Relay Scam masts. Both of these invaluable founts of knowledge will be solely missed, and we wish them both the best of luck for the future.

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ALPHA THREE TROOP—2 SQN

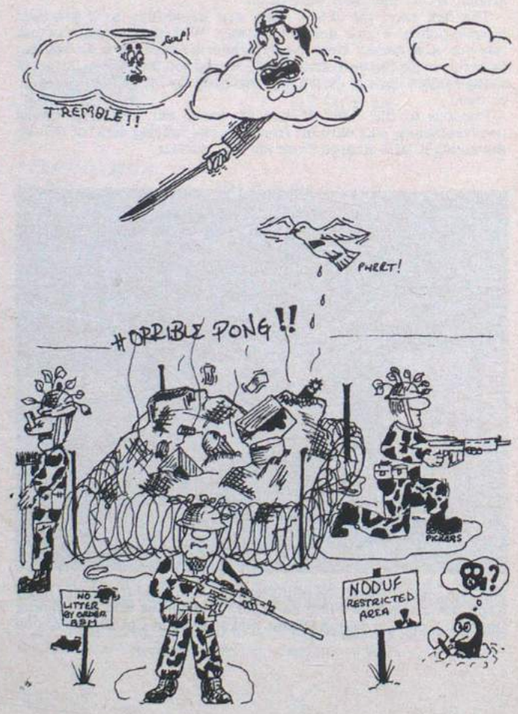
Time marches on and the Troop is happy to report that it survived the latter half of Ex Flying Falcon in what must have been the mildest winter for many a year. Everything went according to plan and everyone worked extremely hard maintaining the Divisional communications. No sooner was the turn-around completed than we were thrust into the experience of Ex Crested Eagle, 60% of the Troop promptly disappeared overnight into the snow and re-appeared two weeks later.

Immediately after this came the re-enactment of Dunkirk as the Troop, in two's and three's fled to the Channel port, having miraculously been granted leave by **SSgt Kev Nicholls**, in defiance of **WO2 (SSM) Brian Howes** 'Leave is a Privilege' Directive.

We then had the Families Sunday Lunch, organised by A3 Tp; what would the Squadron do without us? The event was a great success, attended by wives and families. Entertainment came in the form of **Cpl Andy 'The Great Sardini' Masterson** whose magic-act was much enjoyed by the parents (who pushed their kiddies to the rear)! Musical accompaniment came in the form of **Sgt Steve 'Les Dawson' Talbot**, Russ Conway of A1 Tp. The 'Come As You Are' Fancy Dress Competition was won hands down by the 2IC **Capt Nick 'Gimme some Troops' Borrill**, Herford's very own answer to Fagin.

All this enjoyment implies under-employment of manpower, and since the Devil makes work for idle hands we all now find ourselves protecting the bins against the miscreants who insist on putting their refuse out for the Stadt to remove.

On the personnel front we only have one addition to report, the arrival of **Sig Tim Clemens** who managed to set a new record by being in the Troop for less than 24 hours before we had to pack him off to hospital.



200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

Two weeks before the start of Falcon 88 the Squadron was warned that this year the exercise was going to be different. At this point **Cpl Les Donno** started spreading rumours; this was nothing new and as normal the rumours became less credible as the days went on and startex approached! **Cpl Dunno** lost all credibility however, when he informed us that the exercise was being postponed until it snowed; but everybody knows that it always snows for Falcon—don't they? At about the same time that the rumours started, so did the attempts to get off the exercise. It is amazing the lengths to which some people will go; the FofS **SSgt 'Taff' Griffiths** and **Cpl Ken Robson** had been planning their escapes for some nine months! **Sig Jamie Hart** elected to offer his hand as a replacement ball during a soccer match, and spent the majority of the exercise having his nose removed from his left ear!

For once however the snow failed to arrive, and in fact the only things that got cold on Flying Falcon this year, were the numerous Sunday lunches left on plates when the Squadron was called in just after 1800 hrs on Sunday evening.

For the next week the entire Squadron had a very enjoyable tour of northern Germany, including an all too brief stop at a very nice golf course. On this occasion and for the first time in living memory, **SSgt Dennis Rutter** didn't have his clubs with him.

Other highlights of the first week included the Squadron Training Sergeant—'the original invisible man' **Sgt 'Rev' Bolam** actually being seen in Comms Ops—and the Squadron dormouse **Sgt 'Geordie' Maughan** actually being seen at all!

The second week of the exercise was a somewhat static affair with only one move during the week. This gave the OC, **Maj Cedric Burton** an opportunity to visit the Squadron rebros. Unfortunately he ended up doing it on foot when his driver **LCpl Dave Reilly** found the same hole that **Cpl Ian Spruce** had spent seven hours trying to get out of, the previous night. The OC's countryside ramble did however have its consolations, when he was able to witness the attack on the Brigade Tac HQ, led by **Sig 'Taff' Thomas**. A warm welcome to **Sig 'Tint' Purnell** and roll on the basketball season!

SQUADRON MILITARY TRAINING WEEK
ALPHA TROOP—EXERCISE MILLWHEEL
BRAVO TROOP—EXERCISE HARD ROVER

The Squadron's major military training period of the year was divided into Troop exercises. **2LT Ian Meers** and Alpha Tp went to war somewhere near Minden while **Lt Graham Norton** and Bravo Tp stayed a little closer to home. However much was achieved and the majority of the Squadron successfully passed their military skills tests for the year. **Cpl Ron Blackburn** demonstrated his newly created observation range whilst **LCpl Mick Hurn** was delighted to spend a whole afternoon demonstrating trip flares in a snow storm on the nearby exercise.

SPORTS NEWS
CROSS COUNTRY

The Squadron cross country teams rounded off an excellent season (their first attempt) by finishing second in the 4 Div Minor Units league. This was an outstanding performance by what was basically a scratch team. **SSgt Chris Charlton** the team captain and oldest competitor deserves congratulations for turning a group of keen runners into a very strong team. **Cpl Dave Gill** gained due reward for his consistency with fourth place overall, and **Sig Neil Watt** was judged to be the most improved runner in the Division. The other team members were **2Lt Ian Meers, Sgt Steve Piggins, Cpls Ron Blackburn, Mark Leigh, LCpls Callum Black** and **Pete O'Brien.**

The Squadron hockey team organised by **Sgt Bob McIntyre** and **Cpls 'Tug' Wilson** and **Monty Moore**, have been training hard since the beginning of the year and this is starting to bring its rewards. The team is currently lying second in the Divisional league.

At the time of writing it is taking part in the Corps six-a-side competition in Rheindahlen. This three day trip is a just reward for the time and effort that the team has put in during the past three months.

RUGBY

The Squadron rugby team has now played three full matches, and a sevens competition. The team captain **Sig Billy Duggan** is becoming a desperate man. He has taken to making his normal after match comment 'Well we only play for fun' before the start of matches. However, if any Squadron would like a 'friendly' match please get in contact with the Squadron which has a group of amateurs always willing to play.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the SSM **WO2 Mick Orrell** on his selection for promotion to WO1 and also to **SSgts Chris Charlton** and **Dennis Rutter** on selection for WO2. Also to **Sgt Pat Gibney** on his selection for promotion to SSgt. Additionally congratulations are due to **LCpl John Brooks** and **Tony Taylor** on their recent promotions. The Squadron also passes on its best wishes to **Kim Griffiths** on the birth of a daughter and **Ann Robson** on the birth of a son.

Don't be disappointed!

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211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON/FIRST GEAR/KEEL HAUL

February saw the Squadron deploy to the field for the annual round of winter exercises. Early phases of the exercises took place in the Minden/Stadthagen area before moving to our old stomping ground around Gronau. For the time of year the weather was particularly kind with the threatened snow never appearing. The exercise involved a fair amount of hard work and at times we thought it would never end, however it did have its funny moments!

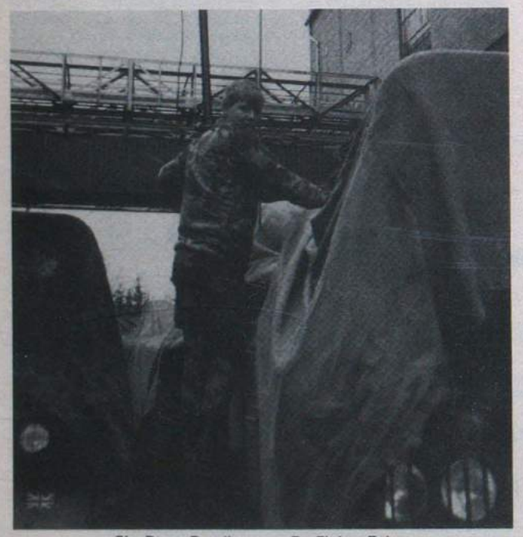
SSgt 'Barny' Barnard denies rumours that he is to leave the Army and set up a sandwich bar. **Sig Pete Thrush** made several attempts at getting off the exercise but even dropping the hatch of his panzer on his hand failed to achieve his aim.

Due to the nature of the exercise it was difficult to decide who should win the customary 'Golden Blanket' award as everyone had had so much sleep. Rumours that the subalterns sleeping bags had pip and nametags sewn on to them are being hotly denied!

For most, the exercise ran smoothly, however, **Cpl 'Geordie' Laverick** would rather forget it, having done two pack lifts in as many days as he has become something of an expert.

Thus ended Flying Falcon 88 and everyone returned to barracks and the frantic preparation for PRE!

The SSM and SSgt Kelly on Ex Flying Falcon



Sig Dean Rawlings on Ex Flying Falcon

DEPARTURE OF OC, MAJ J. A. MACFARLANE

The end of February saw the departure of **Maj John MacFarlane** as OC of the Squadron. After two very busy years as OC **John** and **Marcia** are leaving Minden for JHQ. He was dined out by the Squadron Officers and SNCO's in the Sgts Mess and was presented with a framed print of Minden and the customary Squadron plaque.

Later that week the Squadron paraded on the square and the Ferret, resplendent in orange mine tape and an armchair, was driven on the square. After a few words to the assembled Squadron **Maj MacFarlane** mounted the Ferret and was towed out of camp to the accompaniment of a piper.

In his time at the Squadron **John MacFarlane** managed to produce a Squadron that was exceptionally good at its job as well as being extremely happy. We wish **John, Marcia** and the children all the best for the future, and welcome as the new OC **Maj Ken Hadfield**, and his wife **Cathy**.

WO2 (SSM) Fairfield presents Maj John MacFarlane with his Squadron plaque

The OC is towed out of camp

FINALLY

We also say farewell to **Lt Rob Salvoni, Sgts Paul Gladwin, 'Boz' Shead, Roy Morrison, Cpls Tony Slaney, Don Anderson, Steve Dodd, Sig Mark Watson** and **Pete Thrush**. We wish them all the best for the future.

We welcome **SSgt (FofS) Mal Thomas, Cpl 'Taff' Morgan, Sgt Colin Senior, Cfn 'Jock' Morton** and **LCpl John Pendlebury**.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

EXERCISE WINTERS TALE

Report by Maj M. J. P. Collins—2IC

With a cold dark winter looming ahead, the prospect of a three week cruise in the Mediterranean, aboard what was described as a luxury yacht, had much to offer. So it was that when the 2IC **Maj Mike Collins**, announced that the Regiment would sponsor such a cruise, the volunteers were quickly found. Who could blame us when the total package was on offer for only £100 each?

Once the crew assembled it quickly became apparent that only 2 of the 10 had ever been sailing on the real 'Oggin' before. No matter, undaunted, the crew set off one bleak November morning, for the journey by air to Malta. This entailed an overnight stop in London where 31 Sig Regt (V) made us most welcome, more so **Brenda**, the MT Sergeant, who took pity on us being laden with 'Duty Frees' and drove us across London. A valuable lesson was learnt by the Officers and Senior NCO's during this overnight stop; they bragged a little too loudly as to how they liked hot curries; it made the prospect of a three hour flight quite daunting when a smiling Indian waiter decided to take up the challenge. The flight to Malta safely behind us and **Sig Tony Knowles** still in a trance, we were relieved to note the presence at the airport of **Mr Jim Reid** the permanent skipper aboard HMSTY Kukri, a Nicholson 55'. A dry 85 F was a pleasant change from the wet 48 F we had left behind.

The first encounter, with what was to be our home for the next 18 days, was not pleasant for all; some regarded Kukri as a floating raft rigged with booby traps designed to trip you up, bang you on the head, trap your fingers or just tie you in knots but after a few hours we began to realise how things were organised: two watches, four hours on, four hours off; this wasn't mentioned when we volunteered. To be fair though, we did enjoy a good night on the town (Pacheville and Sliema). It was here that we should have noted that the 2IC and **Capt Chaz Birchall** would always find the cheapest place to drink, not only did they find a bar with an extended 'happy hour', but they even conned the tourists into buying them drinks. The next day was to be the real test; described as a training session, we were motored out of a tranquil Manual Island harbour to find ourselves being battered by a force 6 wind. After three hours of hoisting sails and wrestling with winches designed to be operated by **Geoff Capes**, not to mention getting soaked in the process, the skipper took pity upon us and headed for the harbour. Good thing too because our ears were becoming sensitive to the constant stream of abuse hurled at us for getting things wrong. However we were becoming more agile on the slippery decks; the result of frequently dodging **LCpl Martin Silvey** as he dashed to the rail to feed the fish. We had never dreamed anyone could do this with such gusto.

After a further night on the town, which some imagined might be our last ever recalling the state of them the next morning, life became serious. The skipper decided that we would set sail but, wasn't too sure for where;—something to do with depending on where the wind was. We couldn't understand this as we had been shown how to start the big engine, hereafter referred to as 'wind-in-tins'. Eventually all was revealed, we were off to Sicily (Mazara Del Vallo) a distance of 130 miles which took 28 hours in winds of up to 30 knots. This wasn't baptism by fire, it was baptism by wind and spray not to mention a bucking deck (we're going to try the rodeo next, we should be good). Surprisingly, spirits remained high, as did the food in some instances. At this stage **RQMS Dave Fox, SSgt 'Chuck' Walker, Cpl Mick Payne, Sig Myles 'I need longer to wake up' Sharman** and **Cpl Harry Harbord** had all joined the 'feed the fish club' though to be fair, **Cpl Harry Harbord** wasn't persuaded until **LCpl Martin Silvey** deposited the fish food on his back. Once in harbour it was a quiet evening for most, spent contemplating the aches and pains and again questioning the wisdom of volunteering to join the four maniacs who actually seemed to enjoy this, the two skippers, the 2IC and the RQMS. It didn't help that we couldn't exchange currencies but, in truth, all we wanted was sleep. Alas even sleep was to be disturbed as the kind port officials demanded that our yacht be moved twice during the night.

The next morning greeted us with clear blue skies and a favourable wind and so we decided to leave at midday and head for Sardinia; that sounds simple but clearly we had not provided the Italian customs officials with the normal hospitality or whatever, as we were then invaded in turn by a further set of customs officials, the police, the Navy and lastly immigration; eventually getting underway at 1600 hrs.

By now we were familiar with the layout of the boat and the procedures but the watch changes left us tired and hands were beginning to show signs of wear. Sailing at night can be quite a daunting experience and adrenalin flows rapidly when a fleet of trawlers seems to be playing 'dodgems' with you. Arriving at Porto de Cagliari in time for a hearty breakfast prepared by **Capt Chaz Birchall** and **LCpl Martin Silvey**, and being greeted again by radiant sunshine and clear skies, put things into a different light, even sea sickness was no longer raised as a subject. This sailing lark was actually beginning to be enjoyable. By the time we had sampled the local wines and food 7 Sig Regt seemed like a long-forgotten bad dream and so life continued for the next leg of the trip to Ibiza. Here the cause of much amusement was the skipper, falling into the sea from the jetty (we know what he was doing). Most of the island had closed for the winter thus keeping the Pads out of trouble.

Now for the Spanish mainland; Almeria was to be our destination even though this had been Cartagra when we first left port. So what, we were experienced sailors by now, had endured strong winds, our hands had hardened, we had mastered the art of moving about on a bucking, reeling deck and could identify the sails spars and rigging. Some had even learned to cook whilst at sea and others had learned to eat without later passing it on to the fish. **Capt Chaz Birchall**'s hot pot came to life however, and leapt into the bilge as it was being removed from the oven. Thus it was clear that there was still room for improvement. The next 36 hours were designed to teach us not to become complacent when at sea. Within hours of leaving Cartagara, close hauled yet again, the wind freshened to a lively force 10 which didn't ever look like abating despite our prayers. This sleek 55ft yacht now took on the appearance of a red cork with a pin in it (the mast) and was treated accordingly by the sea. Cooking was no longer a problem; nobody ate. Nor did it take long to appreciate how tiring it was just trying to remain upright and to avoid collecting bruises upon bruises. It was about then that the 2IC reminded us all that this was meant to be 'arduous adventure training' and not a cruise. On reflection morale did remain high and if some humour was lost, it was well disguised. The 'Boss' as the 2IC became known was undoubtedly the quickest in and out of his bunk at change of watch, and **Sig Myles Sharman** the slowest, but he resolutely denied this was related to fear. **Capt Chaz Birchall** managed to smoke more Woodbines than usual and that, despite the regular dousing given by the 'Greenies'. Cracks were beginning to appear in the cohesion of the crew after a further 24 hours. These came to light after one crew member voiced his fear that the yacht might break up while he was zipped into his sleeping bag and trapped in his bunk. His escape plan involved; launching one of the life rafts and then jumping into the sea to gain it, whilst remaining tied to the yacht until just before it sank. At this particular juncture, a 12ft-15ft shark (later telling increased the size to 30ft) surfaced close to us and swam parallel to us for about five minutes—it's amazing how quickly some people can change plans! That day and for most of the next night we had no option but to put our trust in the designers and builders of the yacht and the fact that the four 'Old hands' were sleeping peacefully when off watch. By 0200 hrs we noticed that the wind was easing; soon it was time to remove the damaged foresail and put up something bigger. Naturally, as with most sail changes, this fell to the starboard watch, and was to be a task long to be remembered by **Sig 'Knobby' Norburn** and **Cpl Harry Harbord**; the latter wanted to hide in the focs'l and the former was very nearly lost overboard, in the dark and in 20ft-25ft seas and became notably quieter thereafter. Another nights' sailing saw us arrive safely in Almeria and all were glad to stand on 'Terra Firma'. Undoubtedly a few were thinking of hitching (overland) to Herford from here but, a good meal, a few beers and a few stories at the bar restored any lost confidence and now we knew that we should always remain within sight of land; even **Cpl Mick Payne** was seen to smile. It was now that **SSgt 'Chuck' Walker** came into his own as ships' purser managing to bring back so much food at such little cost that nobody dared ask how this was achieved.

From here on in, everything took on a much calmer air and we all began to relax and enjoy life—in fact acting like rich tourists as we visited Motril, Benalmadena, and Duigasa before running into Gibraltar. These were the lazy-hazy days we had been promised with much time being spent frolicking on board and ashore. **'Nobby'** and **Tony** climbed the mast and discovered it wasn't that easy to stop swinging like a pendulum, and on other occasions wrestled with the spinnaker and tried to untangle the associated rigging; we even mastered the art of tying knots that could be untied.

Arrival in Gibraltar was not the climax we had expected only a few days ago, memories of the storm had begun to fade and were it not for the fact that we were running out of pocket money, most of us would gladly have continued sailing; some were resolute 'Never Again!' Still, we had yet another run ashore and the chance to recap on the disasters and the fun (**Martin** was still feeding the fish daily), the skipper didn't want anyone to tell his wife how he fell into the sea

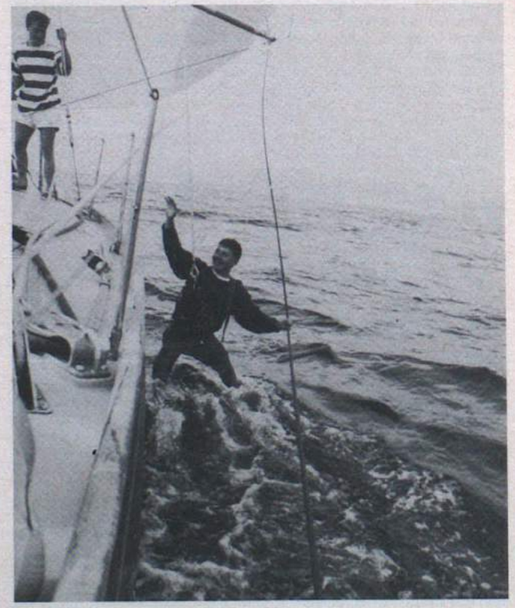
and nobody was to tell Gosport how he tested the diving skills of **Sig 'Nobby' Norburn** and **Cpl Harry Harbord** by getting mooring lines wrapped around the propeller shaft in Manuel Island harbour. It was agreed that the Corps Commanders directive for Adventure Training to be arduous had been achieved as testified by our aching limbs, weatherbeaten skins, depleted egos and damaged livers. Still we could look forward to the trip to UK and perhaps a night out in London (booked just in case). At this stage things started to go wrong! The RAF kindly flew us to Luton and we duly made our way (less the duty frees so it was easier) to Brize Norton with a bit of help from our friends from 244 Sig Sqn. We couldn't really complain about missing a night in London as we now had the offer of a soft bed and a decent breakfast in the Gateway Hotel. The next morning we duly presented ourselves in the departure lounge and began filling in all the forms. At this point the RAF played their ace, declaring there had been a mix up at the booking centre and that there would be no CNFP flights for us! Once again 244 Sig Sqn came to the rescue and by a combination of rail, road and sea we made it back to Herford still not certain of why we had volunteered but to summarise we had sailed 1,158 miles in 18 days of which 48 hours were sailed at night. We had coped with six different currencies, each sent between six and nine postcards, battled with three different languages, moulded together into a pretty good crew and now even knew the difference between a 'Star Cut' and a 'Radial'. The question now arises, will we risk repeating this chapter in our lives? Even if the answer to this is no, all those who took part are glad they did because they learnt a bit more about themselves and were delighted to have seized an opportunity denied to most. Of those who are given this sort of chance, how many join a crew on a 55ft yacht for three weeks for only £100 including food, flight and a bit of a fright?

The Port watch, Cpl Mick Payne, Sig Myles Sharman, RQMS Dave Fox, LCpl Martin Silvey and SSgt 'Chuck' Walker

Sig 'I've got bottle' Norburn

The Starboard watch, Cpl Harry Harbord, Sig 'Knobby' Norburn, Maj Mike Collins, Sig Tony Knowles, Capt Chaz Birchall (Never again)

On Shark patrol, Cpl Harry Harbord at the wheel



Sig 'Honest I didn't mean it' Knowles

RHQ

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col R. J. Holmes MBE**
2IC	**Maj M. J. P. Collins**
Ops Offr	**Maj G. R. Leach**
Adjt	**Capt R. M. Clapp**
Asst Adjt	**Lt M. A. Finneran**
Tech Adjt	**Capt (TOT) A. G. Taylor**
RSM	**WO1 A. Hickling**
Supt Clk	**WO1 R. J. Underhill**
Ops YofS	**WO1 P. Tharme**

The Regiment has again passed through its 'busy period' when Maresfield Barracks become very much a Ghost Town for three months. The effect of this 'Black Hole' period on RHQ was that once again we took it in our stride, (very small and very tentative). Four clerks on exercise, four on guard, 'Super, your turn in the registry today!', the reply to which is not for print. 'Oh well, worth a try!'.

Adaptability being the name of the game **LCpl 'Johno' Johnson** was impressed by our man management skills again: Friday Registry Clk, Monday 0815 hrs Pampas Update Clk, Monday 0835 hrs '**LCpl Johnson** how would you like to be Docs Clk?' Oh, well, it can't be that bad, after all they've all 'volunteered' for extensions haven't they?

Thanks must go to the ever faithful typists, **Miss Kelly Wood** and **Mrs Sandie Elliott** who terrorise the subalterns when they try to get typing done without first speaking to the Supt Clk.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday 16 March saw the annual clash of the 'shiny bottom' giants with a football match. RHQ 7 Sig Regt versus RHQ 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, under tremendous conditions, a wet soggy pitch, rain, and with a retarded referee the teams battled for the coveted trophy, a Snoopy mirror.

Individuals worth mentioning **Sgt 'The head, but wrong goal' Harrington**, the boys of 66—**Cpl 'Nice legs' McAuley, Maj 'Give me the ball' Leach** and **Capt 'I know what to do but my body won't do it' Taylor** and **LCpl 'Flash' MacDonald**.

The final score was 6—3 to 4 ADSR but naturally did not reflect the quality of the game. Special mention to the terrible threesome **Cpl 'Where's my Middle East posting' Peat, Cpl 'Put me down for the satisfied soldier scheme' Reeves**, and soon to be **Pte (RAPC)—Sig 'Days to go' Postings**.

All the team played extremely well, but sadly could not produce the goods at the goal mouth.

RHQ Troop

Back row: Sig Longhurst, Postings, LCpl Johnson, Sig Morrison, Woods, Cpl Watson, LCpl Bennett, Cpl Peat
Middle row: Sgt McCue, Ptes Lethbridge, Warren, Sig Pullen, Miss Wood, Mrs Elliott, LCpl MacDonald, Sgts Harrington, Reid
Front row: Lt Finneran, WO1 Underhill, Maj Leach, WO1 Hickling, Lt Col Holmes, Maj Collins, Capts Clapp, Lodge

3 SQUADRON (RADIO)

OC	**Maj (Tfc) Colin Eastland**
2IC	**Capt Jim Body**
OC A1	**2Lt Andy Cameron**
OC A2	**Lt Neil Selby**
OC A5	**Capt Stephen Croft**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Rab Young**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Tony Shaw**
	Sgt (YofS) Yeomans
FofS	**SSgt Steve Jennings**
SQMS	**SSgt Crosby**

DEPARTURES

1 January 1988 heralded the end of an era as the pennant of 6 Sqn was lowered for the last time and we assumed the title of 3 Sqn (Radio). To escape the reorganisation **WO2 (YofS) Merv Foster** left for Hereford, **SSgt (YofS) Lee Pilling** for Munster and **SSgt 'Dougie' Douglas** for Glasgow. The new year has also seen the departure of a part of the Squadron which has been in service longer than any other. The last D11s in BAOR service were handed back with much wailing and gnashing of teeth from RTgs and Radio Techs alike.

POND LIFE ON FLYING FALCON

'Back a bit . . . Back . . . Go on . . . More still . . .' Squelch!

'Stop. That's perfect. Pond Life has arrived!'.

So it was on Ex Flying Falcon that the new 3 Sqn practised deployment in puddles and muddy patches all over the Corps area. 3 Sqn soldiers can be identified by their webbed feet. The SOinC, Corps Comd, MGRA and Comd Comms(s) all visited and were transported around in our newly fitted fleet of Ozcab SCRA(T) rovers. **Cpl Eric 'the Ancient' Ball** found himself tasked to drive the SOinC with five minutes warning and ended up driving and entertaining him for two days. The enemy 'Spetznaz' was dealt a blow by **SSM Rab Young** and **YofS Tony Shaw** who borrowed a Puma helicopter and dropped in to eliminate chief baddy **WO1 (RSM) Hickling**. The powers that be were so impressed with the YofS that he is to be promoted and moved to RHQ and provide close protection to the heirarchy there.

EXERCISE AWARDS

The Worst Det Commander in the World—**LCpl Stan Kelly.**

Sparkling Conversation and Bacon Butty—**LCpl Jimmy Gooch.**

Best on-air Dalek Impression—**Sgt Neil 'Throatsworth' Coatsworth.**

Anglo-German Diplomacy—**LCpl Steve 'Camoflague' Hinton.**

Pathfinder Award for Navigation—**2Lt Andy 'I am not lost' Cameron.**

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

VISIT OF SOinC

This year's highlight, so far, has been a visit by the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** on Friday, 26 February. After meeting the CO, **Col P. B. Webster**, he visited the Trade Training School, where he met the CO **Lt Col G. M. Finney**, and signed the visitors book.

From here he moved on to the Operating Wing where **Lt Col (Tfc) L. T. Waumsley** escorted him around various student classes. No visit to the TTS could be complete without a brief on the individual training scheme so an update by the courseware writers and **Maj S. Lockie** was called for.

LCpl Nicholas Mowbray Radio Telegraphist (RT430) (30 Sig Regt) familiarisation training on Cossor Teleprinter

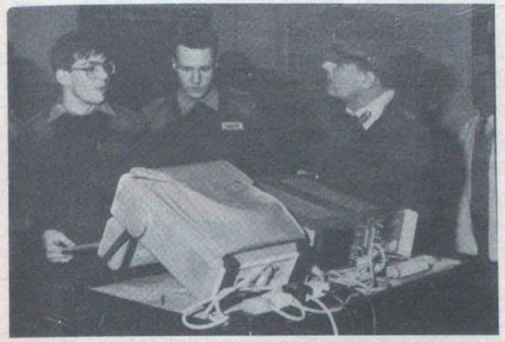
Lt Col (Tfc) Les Waumsley, Chief Instructor of Operating Wing talks to the SOinC. Also in the picture is Pte Kathleen Rogan

Courseware writers Graham Hitchcock and Bob Allan demonstrate their creative skills to the SOinC. Maj S. Lockie continues the briefing

Sig Kenneth McEwan explains the mysteries of message handling to the SOinC

Sig Alan Mitchell and General Alexander sorting out the job

To round off the morning, he visited Engineering Wing and Upgrading Course RR670. Escorted by **Maj (TOT) C. G. Webb** he met **Cpls Mochford, Thomas** and **Thorpe** who were under-going DMTS (Digital Microwave Trunk System) training with instructor **Mr Bill Johnson**. The DMTS module is the final equipment on Radio Relay Technician Upgrading course and the day of the visit coincided with the last day of course RR670 (all students achieved T1 standard). The three Corporals, after being granted leave, will be detached to JCUFI for a standard four month detachment.



Cpls Mochford, Thorpe and SOinC

After lunch in the Corporals Mess he visited the White Helmets, who were practising on Somme Barracks square. Although very new in their training season, the Royal Signals White Helmets put on an excellent display. **Maj Gen Alexander** watched keenly as old hands and new trainees went through their paces, during a show which combined breathtaking fast crossover rides, courageous jumps and skiful balance tricks.

Maj Gen Alexander congratulates the team on its performance. The trainees not wearing their white helmets, until they are presented with them by the SOinC at the Opening Show in Catterick on 6 May

To finish the day he visited Schemes Tp on one of the few occasions during the year that the whole Troop was not on exercise! The visit started with a brief on the Troop's expanding role (post Ptarmigan) by the OC **Capt Kevan Thornber**. He was then given a more detailed training brief on Combat Net Radio by **WO1 (YofS) Carl Storey** and on Ptarmigan by **WO2 (FofS) John Oakes.**

L-R: Sgt Bob Nicol, WO2 (FofS) John Oakes, SOinC, CO (Hidden), Capt Kevan Thornber

The SOinC then had a conducted tour of the Troop lines where he met and talked to students and Schemes Tp personnel.

L-R: SOinC, Cpl Colin Hoyle

L-R: (Student), SOinC, Sgt Keith Bolton, Capt Kevan Thornber

L-R: Sig McDonald (Student), SOinC, Capt Kevan Thornber

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

EXERCISE RIME LEVANT

The Troodos Mountains in Cyprus are not a ski resort in the European sense. They will never host a Winter Olympics (unless there's some dramatic volcanic activity to push the height up a few thousand metres). When faced with not doing it at all there is some very acceptable skiing on the four short runs— when the lifts are working and haven't been fused by lightning of course.

This year the Regiment was able to increase Winter Adventure Training with Ex Rime Levant. This provided an opportunity for those unable to go on a two week Milski course to do three days Alpine skiing, instructed by **Lt D. C. Llewellyn** and others.

In all 90 servicemen and women, over half of them new to the sport, took part. Apart from the odd strained knee or fear of heights all had an excellent time and achieved a great deal on what was termed 'The Crash Course'—literally!

RHQ managing to get out of the office on Rime Levant
From L-R: Sgt Barnes, WO2 Parkinson, Mrs Turner, WO1 Turner, LCpl Goodwin, Lt Brown, WO1 (RSM) Doherty, Mrs Leivers, Cpl West, Cpl Hamilton, Mrs Eady, Pte Goulter, LCpl Cooper and Rev Savage

Many beginners found despite being able to walk, drive or bicycle that when skis were strapped to their otherwise co-ordinated feet, rigor mortis set in. (**LCpl Rice, Cpl Alford, Lt Brown** take note). A typical ski training programme for the novice would look like this:- Introduction to boots and skis, falling down and getting up again, avoiding trees, other skiers, runaway sledges, surviving the Drag Lift, descent of the near vertical 50m long Sun Valley One Nursery Slope, and Recovery with a medicianal Gluhwein in the Dog and Partridge NAAFI.

Overall a very successful exercise which we hope to repeat next year.

THE 'AY NIK 15' 1988

The annual Ay Nik 15 Road Race hosted by the Regiment and regarded by many as the lead-in to the Cyprus Services Marathon, started from the Dhekelia Bus Park at 1500 hrs on Thursday 3 March. The starting signal was sounded by the Commanding Officer, and the runners set off beneath threatening skies with a strong Westerly wind to assist them along most of the route, thus justifying one of the reasons for the route being the reverse of previous years. The expected battle up front commenced immediately with **Mr Steve Robinson** (2 Sqn) and **Cpl Rob Payne** (33 SU) who quickly built up a healthy lead over the rest of the field. These two passed the 5 and 10 mile points as a pair in around 24 mins and 49 mins achieving PB's, as did most of the field, which cannot be recognised because of the strong wind. **Cpl Payne** increased the pace at about 13 miles and **Mr Robinson**, suffering from a sore Achilles tendon, slowly dropped back; **Cpl Payne** maintained a blistering pace and with blood stained shoes won convincingly in a time of 1 hr 16 mins 43 secs; second place went to **Mr Robinson** in 1 hr 18 mins 8 secs with **SAC Lancaster** (RAF UK Marathon Champion) taking third place in 1 hr 21 mins 23 secs. Only 16 ladies entered the event and no real battles took place, **Mrs Edwards** (Akrotiri Ladies) finished first (26 overall) in a time of 1 hr 41 mins 2 secs followed in second place by team mate **Mrs Joynes** in 1 hr 41 mins 51 secs (29 overall) and **Mrs McKenzie** (Epistopi Ladies) third in 1 hr 48 mins 1 sec (36 overall). Team honours went to 2 Sqn 9 Sig Regt, Akrotiri Ladies and 12 SU Senior Vets. Statistics for the event show that 131 entries were received, 104 started and 99 actually completed the measured 15 mile course, 31 Veterans took part of which 6 were ladies, the youngest runner was **Ceri Harris** of KRS placed 58th in 1 hr 51 min 23 secs and the eldest **Mr John Ellison**, DWO Dhekelia, placed 22 in 1 hr 38 mins 58 secs special mention is also due to **Darryl Norgan** of Episkopi who finished 20th in 1 hr 38 mins 28 secs. Presentation of trophies was made by **Mrs Jenny Mann** who in turn received a bouquet from **Lisa Ellery** aged seven. The organisers would like publicly to thank all those who entered, the SBA Police for ensuring the safety of the runners, RMP Dhekelia for signing the routes to the Bus Park, OC TSU Dhekelia for the use of the Bus Park facilities and the Dhekelia and Ay Nik Scout Groups who each manned a refreshment station. The proceeds from the event will go to Thallasaemia Research in Cyprus and the balance to ESBA Scouts.

'Ay Nik 15' Winners—2 Sqn
From L to R: Cpls Cousins, Gilroy, WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse, Mr Robinson

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T. FROST (Saddlers)
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DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE JUNIOR SKI TEAM

Over the past two years the Junior Ski Team has had considerable success in the UKLF (Scottish) Alpine Championships held in Aviemore. Having twice won the individual junior trophy and in 1987 winning the junior team trophy, this year's team had a good reputation to live up to.

As always the training started on the Catterick indoor ski slope as part of the juniors hobbies. Unfortunately after the first session, in early January, it became almost impossible to ski at the dry ski slope. However even with this setback a rough team selection could be made before the boys went on to their ELT training in the highlands of Scotland.

External leadership training was the first time that prospective members of the team would ski on snow. The period lasted for three weeks between 10 and 30 January and each of the three Troops; Ulster, Battleaxe and Iron would attend for a week.

The first week was a disaster for Ulster Tp soldiers. There was no snow to be found for five of the six days and consequently the only days skiing had to be a rather quick assessment of any prospective skiers for Austria.

Battleaxe and Iron Tps however were lucky as both Troops managed a week's skiing, firstly on the Cairngorms and then on the Lecht. This not only gave **Cpl Mick North**, the trainer, coach, equipment technician and general team manager, the chance to see the boys natural ability but also to teach those more able the basic necessary skills.

EXERCISE HIGH PISTE

Ex High Piste was the teams 10 day skiing trip to Austria. Those attending were:-

Lt Mike Nott	— **Team Captain**
Cpl Mick North	— **Team Coach, Manager etc**
JSig Miller	
JSig Crabtree	
JSig Ingley	
JSig Wilkens	
JSig Irvine	
JSig Godfrey	
JSig Taberer	
J/LCpl Hopkins	

We left Catterick for London on 5 February (not without a little help from **Capt Brian Smith** the Training Adjutant) and arrived in Kirchdorf in the Austrian Tirol after an exhausting journey on the 6th. We then proceeded to put as many kilometres under our skis as possible. The resorts we skied were, without question, superb. We spent a day at the Steinplatte, five days in St Johann and a day at Kitzbuhel. The snow was beautiful and the weather produced some excellent tans. **Cpl Mick North** worked the boys extremely hard and built them up from snow plough turns on blue runs up to quite competent parallels, some even completing the black runs in St Johann. The highlight of the trip was a day in Kitzbuhel during which we skied the infamous Hahnenkanam from top to bottom. However, **JSig Godfrey** thought that this really was too much and decided to sit the rest of the day out at the bottom.

Lt Mike Nott on the slopes in St Johann, Austria

The team managed seven excellent days skiing and all thoroughly enjoyed it. The spectacle of **Cpl Mick North** chatting up every young girl on the slopes or **Lt Mike Nott** trying to put at least 10ft of air between his skis and the snow kept everyone amused.

The team, under much protest and with many farewells, returned to the balmy climes of Catterick on 14 February. The loudest protests coming from **J/LCpl Hopkins** and **JSig Taberer** who left for Battle Camp the following morning.

THE UKLF (SCOTTISH) ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The final six to go forward, under the guidance of **Lt Mike Nott** and **Cpl Mick North**, to Scotland were:-

JSig Crabtree	)	
JSig Miller	)	**Battleaxe Troop**
JSig Ingley	)	
J/LCpl Everest	)	
JSig Wilkens	)	**Iron Troop**
JSig Irvine	)	

The Championships started on 29 February and continued through to prize giving on Saturday 5 March. The team however came up a week early in order to get some much needed pole practice at the Lecht. We were accommodated at Inverness Training Camp and **Lt Mike Nott** still swears to this day that it was the first and last time he is going to sign for a married quarter. The team were uncomplaining about living in a quarter whose next door neighbours were 6 Gurkha Rifles and the WRAC. **Cpl Mick North** had a room all to himself.

The weather in Scotland was as usual disgusting: strong winds, hail, bitter cold and ice to ski on made everyone wish they were again in Austria. Any way, forgetting the conditions, the team went through a weeks pole training which was to prove invaluable for the following week. It must be said that were it not for **Cpl Mick North's** abundance of contacts at the Lecht and the area in general, the team training would not have been as favourable as it was.

And so the Championships started for the boys on the Tuesday, the Commanding Officer came up to suffer the ravages of Scottish skiing. There were three possible trophies to win: the Junior Individual Novice, the Junior Individual and the Junior Team. Having given all our rivals the once over, **Cpl Mick North** considered the trophies ours. Unfortunately due to either a mistake or more likely just trying too hard, we had two fallers in the team competition and had to settle for third place. We knew though that **JSig Miller's** times were by far the fastest of the day and we had clinched the Junior Individual and Junior Novice prizes.

Two mishaps of the week were our beloved trainer, manager, coach **Mick North** injuring himself on the Open Special Slalom. Something for which **Lt Mike Nott** has not forgiven him as he was sent back on the train and the Team Captain had to drive the Rover back.

Come the prize giving the team secured a front side table and dressed in Corps jumpers we waited to receive our two trophies. To our surprise it was not two we received but three. **JSig Miller** had won an unexpected special prize called the Tyrolia Cup for the most promising skier of the week and to go with it £100 worth of bindings.

The prize giving over the team celebrated in the Dalfabour Country Club and it was a superb end to a rewarding season.

Black and White of Junior Ski Team *left to right:* LT M. Nott, JLCpl Everest, JSig Crabtree, Miller, Wilkens, Ingley and Cpl M. North

The Junior Individual and Junior Champion *left to right*: Cpl M. North, JSig Miller with Lt M. Nott

JSig Miller receiving the Tyrolia Cup from GOC Scotland

3 SQUADRON

This has been a busy past six months for the Junior Soldiers Squadron with all four Troops in training. We began with Iron Tp being reviewed by our Colonel in Chief, immediately followed by the arrival of 150 recruits. A party from Battleaxe Tp visited their sponsor unit in BAOR, 28 Sig Regt, the three senior Troops spent their second week of external leadership training in Scotland skiing and winter mountaineering. We have competed in the Army Junior Cross Country, Orienteering and Hockey competitions, and, more recently, the Army (Scottish) Ski Championships with **JSig Miller** bringing home the Novice Trophy for the Regiment for the third successive year.

The Squadron has hosted five open days for parents of the new intakes. A tribute must be made at this stage to **Mr Doug Thorpe**, our civilian storeman, whose hard work, enthusiasm, and good humour, has been a constant source of admiration during these busy periods. Thank you, Doug!

We have also hosted **Maj Gen C. N. Last OBE** (Kohima Tp Pass Off), the GOC NEDist, and finally, on 18 March we welcomed the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** as the Reviewing Officer for the Pass Off Parade of 114 Junior Soldiers of Battleaxe, Iron and Ulster Tp before some 700 relatives and friends.

The SOinC presented the following awards:-

Communications Skills	**JSig Pearce**	Ulster
Military Calculations	**JSig Greenwood**	Battleaxe
Orientation for Service	**JSig Small**	Ulster
Map Reading	**JSig Davidson**	Battleaxe
Best Overall Military Studies	**JSgt Fowler**	Ulster
Best Shots	**JSig Small**	Ulster
	JSig Walsh	Battleaxe
	JSig Hodgson	Iron
Best Junior Soldier	**JSig Soulsby**	Ulster
	JSig Williams	Battleaxe
	JSig Pomeroy	Iron
Best Endeavour (overall)	**JSgt Fowler**	Ulster
Champion Troop	Battleaxe Troop	

INTER TROOP BOXING

This competition took place on 4 February 1988 in the Le Cateau Gymnasium and was organised by the Regimental Boxing Officer, **Capt Bernie Neillings** and **Sgt (SI) Andy Chapple APTC**.

In the preliminary round, held two days earlier, nine boxers from each Troop battled for the honour of representing their Troop in the finals. As it turned out the prelims produced six from each which gave the finals an evening to look forward to. The Boxing Officer had gone to great lengths to make this a memorable evening with music being played by the band of 34(N) Sig Regt (V) from Middlesbrough and appearing by kind permission of the CO, **Lt Col M. J. Macklin**.

Each boxer was accompanied to the ring by a drummer from the band—and they deserved it! They all gave of their best but the bout of the evening being the Featherweight competition with **JSig Baker** of Ulster winning a split decision over **JSig Monk** (Battleaxe). **Monk** later received the Best Runner-Up Trophy from the Commanding Officer. In another hard fought contest **JSig Bladen** (Ulster) won another majority decision in the Heavyweight bout beating **JSig Checkitt** (Iron). **Bladen** was the Best Winner.

RESULTS

Bantam: **JSig Stephenson** (Iron) beat **JSig Smith** (Axe)—Unan.
Feather: **JSig Baker** (Ulster) beat **JSig Monk** (Axe)—Maj.
Light: **JSig Crabtree** (Axe) beat **JLCpl Watson** (Iron)—Maj.
Light Welter: **JLCpl Fowler** (Ulster) beat **JSig Dowson** (Iron)—KO 1.
Light Middle: **JSig Gennery** (Axe) beat **JLCpl Hopkins** (Ulster)—KO 1.
Middle: **JSig Edwards** (Axe) beat **JCpl Barlow** (Ulster)—KO 3.
Light Heavy: **JSig Newfan** (Axe) beat **JSig Gallivan** (Iron)—Unan.
Heavy: **JSig Bladen** (Ulster) beat **JSig Checkitt** (Iron)—Maj.
Welter: **JSig McKenzie** (Iron) beat **JSig Anthony** (Ulster)—RSF 2.

Troop Competition: 1st Battleaxe 19 points
2nd Ulster 18 points
3rd Iron 17 points

3 SQUADRON PERMANENT STAFF

We have recently said farewell to the SSM, **WO2 Douggie Duggan** to civilian life and also to the SQMS, **SSgt** (ex-Denbury) **Dave Ward** on posting—nearer home! We wish them both best wishes and success for the future. We welcome **SSgt Keith Sandy** as SQMS and our 'best of luck' goes to him although he has already made his mark in the Squadron with a major pass off parade under his belt. The SSMs chair meanwhile, is being kept warm by **SSgt Barry Stephens** whose 'normal' job in the Squadron is in the Training Wing. Congratulations, anyway, Staff on your recent selection for promotion.

BATTLEAXE TROOP
THE CHAMPION TROOP
IN VICTORIA MODESTI

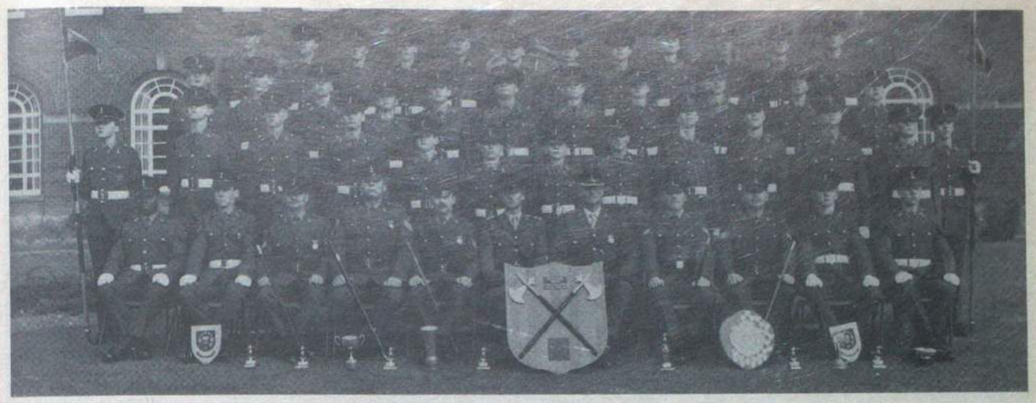
PERSONALITIES
Lt Mike Nott
Sgt 'Mac' McCluskey
Sgt Dave (Don't Call Me Names) Henry
Cpl Tony Tranter
Cpl Nige Heathcote
Cpl John Avery
Cpl Eddie Edminson

A hectic six months of junior training has passed again and, luckily for Battleaxe Tp Permanent Staff, will not reform until June. We will have said farewell to several of the Troop Permanent Staff by then; **Sgt 'Mac' McCluskey, Cpl John Avery, Lt Mike Nott** and possibly **Sgt Dave Henry**.

Apart from all the normal military training the boys do, there have been some extra recreational jaunts. In November the Troop OC and **Cpls Tranter** and **Heathcote** took 14 of the boys for a weeks visit to 28 Sig Regt. The aim, merely to give some experience to Germany and to maintain the links between the Regiment and the Troop. They kindly presented us with two plaques: one for best recruit and one for best section. These were subsequently presented on the pass off parents' evening to **JSig Hyland** and 3 Section.

The Troop has also produced three of the ski team that went to Austria and the UKLF (Scottish) Alpine championships in Aviemore. Notably **JSig Miller** had a great success in the Championships winning: The Junior Individual Cup, The Junior Novice Cup and The Tyrolia Cup.

However, as a Troop Battleaxe has had resounding success in all the Inter-Troop competitions. Winning firstly, the Inter-Troop Boxing and then becoming Champion Troop. Both competitions were extremely well fought and our contratulations go to Ulster and Iron Tps for making it so. The only casualty of the competition was **JLCpl Williams** who severely cut his left hand on the log race and spent a week in hospital a week before pass off parade. His consolation was,



Battleaxe Troop 21 September 1987—18 March 1988
The Champion Troop
Rear Row (L-R): JSig Newton, Morris, Baker, Crabtree, Baynham, Walsh, Pearson, Monks, Wilson, Miller, Ingley and Everitt
Third Row (L-R): JSig Edwards, Cartwright, Harman, Oakes, Kielty, Upjohn, Smith, Kirton, Greenwood, Whitehead and Murgin
Second Row (L-R): JSig Timmis, Gennery, Johnston, Grimes, Hyland, Tindale, Yeates, Green, Powell, Davidson, JLCpl Lambert and JSig Pritchard
Front Row (L-R): JSgt Williams, JCpl Drudge-Coates, Cpl T. Tranter, Sgt D. Henry, A/SSM SSgt B. Stephens, Lt M. Nott, Maj A. J. Griffiths, Cpl N. Heathcote, Cpl A. Edminson, JSCpl Malcolm, JLCpl Grimbly

however, to be presented Junior Corporal and Junior Sergeant Stripes by the CO at his hospital bedside.

The term came to a close with much pass off practice including OCs Ulster and Battleaxe Tp on horseback, but all went well, as usual, on the day for the SOinC. The Troop Permanent Staff wish all the boys the very best of luck in the future but remember the Troop motto, In Victoria Modesti (Modest in Victory).

ULSTER TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt Matt Fensom**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Colin Tough**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl 'Taff' Webb**
	Cpl Chris Martin
	Cpl Andy Evans

On 18 March Ulster Tps' 26 weeks of training finally came to an end. For each of the 35 that passed off, it all seemed such a long way away when the Troop formed on 21 September last year. Since that date they underwent the rigours of Troop runs, kit inspections, block jobs, the log race and various exercises.

External leadership training took place at Dent in October where the recruits learnt the art of rockclimbing, abseiling and caving. In January the Troop travelled up to Scotland for ELT 2 where we were hoping to get in some skiing—however, the weather was against us so we had to be content with games of football, trips to the swimming pool and of course a visit to the Glenfiddich distrillery. Not everyone was a whisky fan and so some didn't require their free 'wee dram' which really pleased the Troop OC who hates seeing good whisky go to waste.

JSgt Fowler in the final assault on Ex Red Hand

Ulster Troop permanent staff *left to right*: Cpl Andy Evans, Cpl Taff Webb, Lt Matt Fensom, Sgt Colin Tough and Cpl Chris Martin

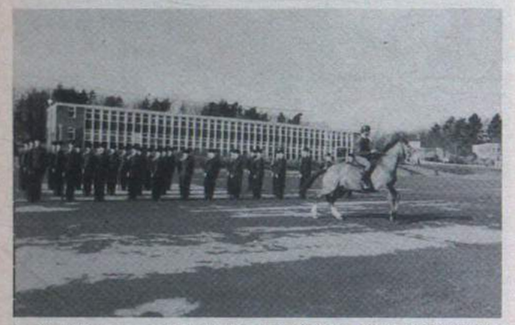
The Troop OC with his Radio Operator, JSig Scott Soulsby, in the final reorganisation

The climax of the exercises was Ex Red Hand, the Troop Battle Camp. It was during this week that one of the unexplained mysteries of our time occurred. For the five days we were out on the Catterick Training Area it didn't rain once—in mid February, unheard of! The final week of training was mainly taken up with practice pass off parades. However, we did manage to fit in a final Troop party during which there was some amateur entertainment from **Lt Matt 'when I was at Sandhurst' Fensom** and **Sgt Geordie 'It's my disk again' Tough**. All the Troop Permanent Staff came in for a hard time especially the Troop Corporals. **Cpl Taff 'Give us a fag Sir' Webb** was wearing his demob suit, **Cpl Chris 'It's my Troop' Martin** lost his trousers and **Cpl Andy 'hee hee hee' Evans** kept the lads in order. We also witnessed some light entertainment under the direction of **JSig 'Wheeze, cough' Walker** or is it **Nalker** who is obviously keen to return here one day as a drill instructor.

On the Thursday morning before the Pass Off Parade the OC and OC Battleaxe Tp, **Lt Mike Nott** decided to play an officer type wheeze! On the command, 'fall in the officers', on they came, on horseback! **Lt Mike Nott** must have had a docile old nag as everything seemed to go fine for him. The Troop OC however, being an experienced horseman, had a temperamental beast called Uxbridge who disgraced himself in a big way. (The roses will now grow well around RHQ). As if this wasn't enough as soon as the parade was brought to the 'shun' Uxbridge decided he'd had enough and left the parade square at the rate of knots—with the Troop OC in obvious control! The Troop Commander is now well known for 'keeping a tight rein on things'.

The day of the Pass Off Parade arrived and went without fault—25 young men now move on to complete their trade training. All the Troop Permanent Staff wish them the best of luck in the future.

There hasn't been much time to reflect on the 'old' Troop as after a whole weekend break we started again with the 'new' Ulster Tp. That will be another story.



Lt Matt Fensom and Uxbridge depart from the parade square under the watchful eye of Ulster Tp

It's Endex for Down Section, commanded by Cpl Chris Martin

IRON TROOP

Yes it's that day again 'pass off day'.

The junior soldiers of Iron Tp, thought this day would never come, 26 weeks of training, all behind them.

18 March 1988, and the boys become men.

But let's look back at the 26 weeks. 'What comes to mind for enjoyment?' if you ask the boys, and they will say '26 January to 31 January, that's when we went to Tomintoul for the week, on a skiing holiday!'.

The lads found being in a hotel, not having to make bed blocks great. As for the skiing we did have three lads who made the Army Junior Team.

With skiing out of the way we next had to contend with Battle Camp. The weather was kind to us. We moved out by transport to set up our first harbour patrol base, then went on to the patrol stages. After that, on the second day, we moved to our second harbour patrol base, where we rehearsed for our T ambush; finally, we put the ambush into operation.

When the ambush was set off it was like Dunkirk all over again; noise, lights and junior soldiers. We finished battle Camp off with the Grand Finale of a platoon attack on the enemy (supplied by permanent staff from the Regiment).

From the picture you can see by **Cpl Cartledge**'s expression ('I'm glad that's over') then back to camp to look forward to their Regimental Dinner.

That brings us back to the big day. All the parties over with, the practices over with, the day had arrived.

Mums, Dads, girlfriends and relatives, had travelled from all over Britain to see their boys become men. And yes, we the permanent staff of Iron Tp, believe we had achieved that. Well done!

NO 1 TROOP SPONSORED SWIM
Report by WO1 D. S. Pimm

On a typically cold and misty Catterick morning the 44 strong Troop found itself marching purposefully from Helles Barracks towards the Garrison Swimming Pool. Having given up a rare chance of a much needed lie in this Saturday and all were cheerful and enthusiastic (well, most were!). These brave aquanauts were keeping a promise they had made about a month ago—to swim for charity. Boasts were overheard, 'I'm going for the mile' and, 'I belonged to a civvie swimming club, you know'. On the other hand one or two were tugging nervously at the corners of their towels, 'Er, I'm a non-swimmer really, Sir, but I'll have a go, Sir'. The event began at 0900 hrs, swimming in relays with each length being recorded faithfully by Troop permanent staff. There were some outstanding performances and a lot of inventive swimming styles such as the 'Hodgins Heave' and the, 'Whitworth Wobble'. **Sig Floyd** (on fish), **Melhuish** (the martian), **Meurig** (the sniper), and **Barker** (the muscle), turned in great performances. But everyone did well for our chosen charity—The Childrens Ward, The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It is hoped to raise over £1,000 from the event, which the lads will present to a representative from the RVI on their pass off day. Thanks to all involved, for their splendid support.

Once again 1 Troop had the pleasure of running a joint course of REME/Signals. The course on the whole did very well with some good results. We once again ran our sponsored event in aid of the RVI Hospital, Newcastle Children's Ward on 14-15 November 1987. The 'A' Team, as they were called, did sponsored gardening, helping the old people of Richmond who could not get about to sort out their gardens.

Also on 13 December 1987 braving the cold and in fine voice the course went Carol Singing. In total the Troop raised over £1,600. The Troop then clubbed together to raise over £300 to buy the children on the wards Christmas presents.

The Troop then paid a visit to the ward on 12 December with 'Papa Smurf (Armstrong)' playing Father Christmas. The whole day was a great success.

Photo by Joseph Krieger

One Troop

Fourth Row (Left to Right): Sig Smith, Cfn Lodo, Greggan, Morgan, Quinn, Ferguson, Eade, Jeffery, Sig McArdle, Cfn Patterson and Sig Edmonds

Third Row (Left to Right): Cfn Stevens, Spencer, Mason, Sig Molumby, Cfn Leyman, Turner, Porter, Kitching, Tunny, Armstrong, Tomlinson and Fullarton

Second Row (Left to Right): Sig Johnston, Cfn Hicks, Bradwell, Cree, McTighe, Potter, Bartlet, Vaughan, Davis Vincent and Down

Front Row (Left to Right): Cfn Burchmore, Palfrey, Vella PA, Dullaghan TG, Sgt Fisher K, Lt W. J. Dodds BEM Royal Signals, Maj A. B. Hill Royal Signals, WO2 SSM T. A. Mortlock, Cpl Horne R, Cpl Carling C, Cfn Inman and Cfn Mclivar

Charitable Training

Rear Row (Left to Right): Cpl Banner, Cfn Pant, Sig Murig, Hodgins, Craig, Bennison, Shephard, Liggins, Benn, Fisher, Cpl Dullaghan, WO1 Pimm, Sig Melhuish, Bradbury, Barker, Ruff, Blakey, Clark, Renner, Couser and Cpl Carling

Center Row (Left to Right): Sig McCarthy, Floyd, Turner, Rayson, Mason, Vance, Elliott, Sig Book, Smith, Callaghen, Vaughan, Ault, Foulds and Cunnington

Front Row (Left to Right): Sig Amos, Brgan, Casci, Swarbrick, Evans, Lyon, Wells, Sig Osbourn, Harvey, Whitworth, Buck, McMichael, Howlett and Thomas

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

NUROO—WINTER CHALLENGE 88

A first for 13 Sig Regt. The NUROO—Winter Challenge 88 is a Para Commando military skills event held in Turnhout, Belgium and designed to test an individual's physical fitness over a distance of 30 km.

Six weeks prior to the event **WO2 Dave Kent, SSgt Steve Palfreyman** and **LCpl 'Mac' McConnell** enthusiastically agreed to represent the Regiment as our illustrious Anglo/German relations Officer **(WO2 John Chudleigh)** translated the fine print and unwittingly referred to the competition as a 10-12km course for reservists. An understatement of immense proportions.

With last minute preparations attuning ourselves to—Air/AFV Recognition; First Aid; Map Markings and the odd training run; what 10-12km anyway! The eventful day dawned and laden with enough sarnies, tea and squash to sustain an Army, navigated our way across Holland to Turnhout, Belgium, where we were warmly welcomed by our hosts. Bearing in mind we were still under the impression the competition was a 10-12 km course, we were somewhat stunned as we donned the regulation 15lb packs to discover that the 'NUROO' Winter Challenge is really a euphemism for a Belgique Para-Commando Marathon! incoporating several command tasks, all of a physical nature en-route . . .

As shouts of 'are you ready', echoed in our ears and with little time to consider our predicament, we set off. Our initial task was a 3km sprint followed by an indoor shoot, using long forgotten 'Lee Enfields'. Two minutes at each checkpoint to mark in the next stage, **SSgt Steve Palfreyman**, our navigator, quickly pinpointed his way to the Assault Course 8km out, where we were shocked to encounter some not so young 'Who Dares Wins' adversaries. The command tasks were not revealed until our arrival at each location necessitating a 4-6km tab in between and timed against the clock. As mutterings of 'Bleeding Ell' could distinctly be heard, we encountered: Stream Crossing; Climbing/Abseiling (thats why the other teams had their own belays and figure eights!); Rope Traversing and Sandbag/Sangar rebuilding, a task that required every team to transport their sangars from one side to the other over the crest of a 10ft sandhill and still no sign of Aircraft Recognition! The fast pace we sustained during the earlier stages began to take its toll. Cries of CRAMP! from **LCpl McConnell** a sure sign of our fading stamina. Not helped in any way as the penultimate task; A Stretcher Race (a new form of First Aid) over 200m, through what appeared to be Lake Lucerne! forced us to jog/walk the remaining few kilometres.

All in all a very varied and demanding competition which taught us much. Wasn't it Baden Powell who created the motto 'Be Prepared?' as competitors nursed their blistered feet. Still, as dusk bid us welcome and with the remains of a cool Stella Artios in our hands, 13 Sig Regt team—**WO2 Kent, SSgt Palfreyman** and **LCpl McConnell** were elated to be placed a creditable third in 3hrs 8mins. Who knows, maybe next year . . .

Nuroo Winter Challenge Team
L-R: SSgt Steve Palfryman, LCpl Mac McConnell CO and WO2 Dave Kent

2 SQUADRON
MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

In the past few months the Squadron has regularly entered the local military skills competitions which involved teams fromt he Bundeswehr with the latest taking place at Merbeck, on 11 March. Despite the very wet conditions, sometimes approaching 'swampish', the Squadron team consisting of **Sgt Derek Graham, Cpls Dave Carvell, Mike Ellis** and **LCpl John Watts**, gained a creditable third Foreign team placing, with the WRAC team of **SSgt Steph Vollentine, Cpl Sandy Gould, LCpls Alison Ward** and **Allyson Carr** winning the trophy for the Ladies team.

The JNCOs of the Squadron were put through their paces on Ex Green Guard 2, which took place on a dry, but chilly weekend early in December. The JNCOs were given a variety of tasks involving navigation by day and by night, patrolling, defence and section attacks. Despite the lack of sleep a good time was had by all, and lessons were learnt by all involved—including the DS and enemy.

EXERCISE BACKPEDAL BACKSTOP

A gallant band of five somewhat masochistic cyclists from the Squadron completed a non-stop relay from Birgelen to Augsburg, via Dannenberg, and back again to Birgelen. The team consisted of **WO1 George Prideaux, WO2 Don Naismith** (team leader and organiser), **Cpls Gavin Jones, Glynn Tilley** and **LCpl Stephanie Edmond**. They were ably supported by a hard working admin team of **Lt Peter Wreford, CPO Dave Craig, Cpls Alison Taylor, Ron** and **Christine Williams**, who spent their honeymoon in the cab of the party's four-tonner!

The distance covered should have measured 2,200km, but in actual fact the old saying 'never give a subaltern a map' was proved once again to be true when a geographical embarrassment occurred which sent **WO2 Don Naismith** off towards Hamm instead of Gutersloh! It was later claimed to be a 'wind-up' to test his sense of humour. A total of £758 was raised for Arthritis Research, and the intrepid crew is already planning a bigger and better venture for the coming year.

There have been many arrivals and departures in the Squadron during the past few months, and we wish well to all those who are in new climes, and welcome to those who have just arrived or returned for yet another tour.

One of the highlights of the period was the presentation of a GOCs Commendation to **Sgt 'Griff' Griffiths**.

Saddlesore, but happy

SPORTS
RUGBY

Once again the Birgelen Bears RUFC have, against all the odds, managed to raise a team worthy of competing against the best in the RCZ. This was largely due to the commitment shown by the players and their love for broken bones and countless bruises.

This season has been one of mixed fortunes for the Bears, two results remain engraved on the team's minds, the first being an exhibition of rugby given to us by Bruggen Bears, resulting in the slightly one-sided scoreline of 96—0 and at the other end of the scale, we managed a superb team performance to come out on top and beat Bracht, the Minor Unit finalists, 22—12 in early February.

The team this season has been one of young and old blood, with such stalwarts as **Sgt Chris Lamb, Cpls 'Taff' Jolly, Sean 'Ghandi' Yost** helping the new team members such as **LCpls Andy Brown, Tim Clay** and **Ian 'Oh my knee' Wheeler**. This season we have been fortunate to see the return of **Cpl Tim Stanley** from 2 Sqn; he has continued to show us that he really does enjoy playing scrum half despite the batterings. Other newcomers who have joined the team include **WO2 Andy Livesley, Sgt Mark Gould, Cpl Mick Culyer** and **Sig Kev Fogg**, who has replaced **Cpl Tim Stanley** at scrum-half after he was buried by an opposing eight just once too often.

Sadly, as is the norm at Birgelen, as soon as new players arrive at the Regiment, we lose key players from the team. This season we have had to say farewell to **Sgts Cliff Mountain, Mick Hartley** and **LCpl 'Jock' Malone**, and as the season draws to a close we will be saying goodbye to **Cpls Vic Smith, Iain Woodcock** and **LCpl 'Gaz' Gale**. Our best wishes go out to them all and on a final note the team sends its congratulations to **Sgt Cliff Mountain** and **Dawn** on the announcement of their forthcoming marriage.

CROSS COUNTRY

The end of another RCZ Cross Country season has already come, with teams having mixed fortunes. The WRAC team again triumphed in the BAOR championships, and gained third place in the league, with **Sgt Sandy Penniston** finishing third WRAC in her first season with the team. Mention must also be made of **Cpl Janette Jensen, LCpls Alison Wild, Allyson Carr** and **Stephanie Edmond** who all ran regularly throughout the season.

Despite gallant efforts, the men's team could not match the achievements of their female counterparts in a strongly contested league. They did, however, manage a creditable fourth in the RCZ Championshipsl.

NETBALL

The WRAC Netball team has had a busy and successful season playing in both the Army and Civilian league games and winning the BAOR Inter Unit Netball Championships held in Berlin.

The Championships were held over the weekend 23-24 January 1988 and the teams were split into two pools. The 13 Sig Regt team played very well to win all of their pool matches and went on to face Bielefeld Garrison in the final. The final was a very hard, close fought match in which 13 Sig Regt won 10—6.

The team members were **Sgts Carol Robinson, Sandy Penniston, Cpls Karen Prentice, Tracy Black, Terry McBride, Flo Lamb** and **Julia Lattaway** with plenty of vocal support from substitutes **WO2 Anne Livesley** and **LCpl Sheena Ellis**.

In winning the BAOR Championships, the team then qualified to represent BAOR in the Army Netball Championships in Aldershot on 7-8 May 1988. Due to courses and Snow Queen the team was slightly changed for the trip to the UK with **Cpls Carol O'Connor** and **Sarch Moorekite** being added. The standard of play in the Army Championships was very high and after two days of hard matches the team came seventh.

INTER TROOP SQUASH COMPETITION

The competition took place during October-November 1987. A total of 19 teams each of three people, entered.

The competition was played on a league basis with the top team from each of the four leagues meeting in the semi-finals.

The two finalists were the Jerry Hatricks (SHQ 1 Sqn) and Barney's Boys (O Tp). Jerry Hatricks were tipped to win as the team were all members of the Regimental squad, where as Barney's Boys had only one Regimental player. The Jerry Hatricks finally overcame a determined Barney's Boys to win the match by two games to one.

The CO with both teams—winning team on the left

OTHER ACTIVITIES
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND SPORTS QUIZ

The annual general knowledge quiz took place throughout January and February as part of the Winter evening activites. This year an additional quiz was added, a Sports Quiz, running in parallel to the General Knowledge Quiz.

Preparation for the quizzes started in October with **WO1 (YofS) Trev Taylor** poring over reference books and burning the midnight oil producing thousands of questions.

Forty teams entered the General Knowledge Quiz and 40 individuals entered the Sports Quiz coming from as far apart as 3 Sqn in Berlin and H Tp in Dannenberg.

An exceptionally high standard was produced from the competitors culminating in some very close matches. The quiz masters, who passed the 'Magnus Magnusson Impression' auditions were **Maj John Hayes, WO1 Tony Bird, WO2 Campbell Lapsley** and **WO2 Andy Livesley**.

The General Knowledge final produced an excellent competition between the eventual winners 3 Sqn D Team and the Quizzlings from I Troop, 2 Sqn.

The Sports Quiz also produced an excellent final with **SSgt Chels Facer** comfortably winning over his rivals, **Capt Dennis Weir** (H Troop), **WO2 George Muir** (I Tp) (Runner Up) and **LCpl Steve Bonser** (H Tp).

Winning Team: WO2 Paddy Callaghan, SSgt Chels Facer and Capt Bertie Hannam with CO's wife Mrs Liz Roberts

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 Campbell**
Instructors	**Sgt Wood**
	Sgt Parnell
	Sgt Petty
PT Staff	**WO2 Scott APTC**
	Sgt Penniston WRAC

As with other Units in BAOR this has been another busy year with many areas of change. Fortunately no one has lost their sense of humour.

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

An effective and successful course depends on four main factors:-

- Set objectives for training—RSTO 1B.
- Provision of resources (staff, time, funds, facilities and training aids).
- The training of the trainers—continous whilst in post.
- Evaluation of results based on the objectives—the course results.

In the era of limited training time, well planned integrated military training increases the professional competence of each soldier and contributes to an efficient unit. The NCO is a vital link in the conduct of good training.

The first two weeks of the course is well documented in all units and in short 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 in that any mistakes on this exercise 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 OULINE

The advance party of one section and two instructors deploy to the training area on Wednesday evening and set up a platoon HQ at Havesum campsite. This is a grand affair of canvas, supplemented by a wooden building aptly named Mercury Lodge.

The main party set forth on Thursday morning with **WO2 (SSM) Mick Campbell**. The OC **Capt Peter Clarke** is still asleep at this stage, comtemplating how to deploy with the JRC 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 Haltern is a larger and more demanding area than Grobbendonk, and this shows that navigational skills can become 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 is following by the section stretcher race, which takes place over the Borkenberge Ridge. There is no doubt that this is a rigorous rest of guts, determination and teamwork. After hard work by units, individual and the PT staff in the guise of **WO2 Dave Scott** and **Sgt Sandy Penniston**, 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 members receive instruction to RV with the DS.

Then follow night navigation, resupply, tactics, NBC, First Aid and watermanship.

This phase is extremely demanding, both physically and mentally. Not only does each man 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 of 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 tied, 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 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 the ability to move tactically but to shoot well on the CQBR. Practice is also given on the ETR wih LMG and on the MMTR with pistol and SMG. The two days of this phase are a good guide to an individuals 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 students are once again checked. They then clean and return stores. Wednesday morning is the practice drill parade followed by the actual parade on the Thursday afternoon. The dinner on the Thursday evening is still going strong. The best student and section trophies are presented after the parade, or at the dinner, should be Inspecting Officer be able to attend in the evening.

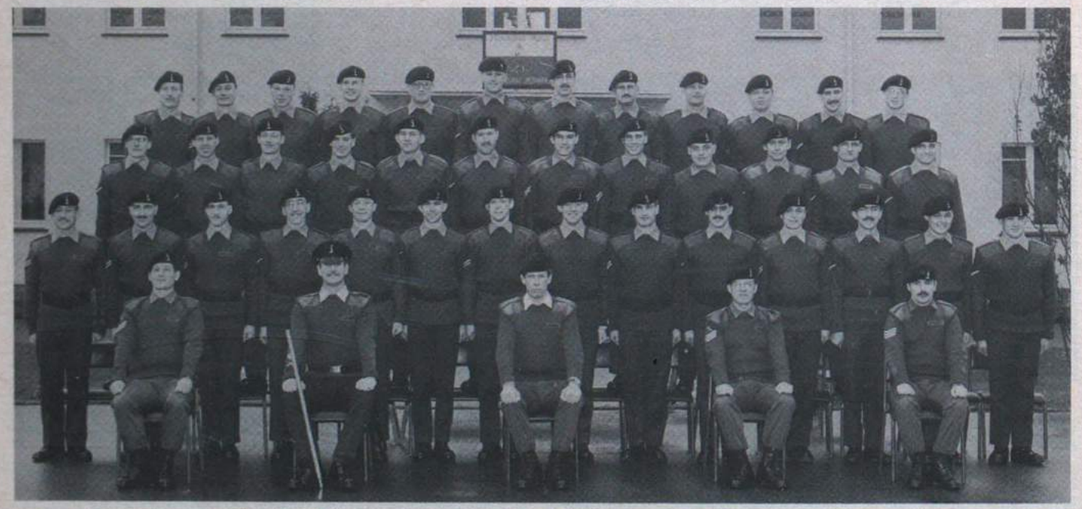
This year, a course loading of 40, 8 courses to run and a complete change of instructors will be a challenge to all. Get your bid in now, we look forward to meeting you.

FINALLY

Potential detachment commanders may feel that the task ahead of them is a daunting one. Fear not, you all have the ability to pass with flying colours. However nothing really worthwhile is easy to obtain, and it is our aim to make certain you will remember this leadership course as the most demanding and yet rewarding of your military career. To ensure your place on the final parade, justifiably proud of your achievements you will need courage and willpower, but above all the determination to succeed, no matter what circumstances prevail. To arrive fit and determined is all that is asked.

ROYAL SIGNALS DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE 1/88

Top Student	**LCpl Jensen** (13 Sig Regt)
2nd Place	**LCpl Clowes** (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt)
3rd Place	**LCpl Whitehead** (13 Sig Regt)



L-R: Sgt D. Petty, WO2 (SSM) M. Campbell, Capt P. Clarke, Sgt J. Wood, Sgt S. Parnell with RSDCC Course 1/88

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

RHQ TROOP

Report by Cpl Simon Windus

When, on 10 March, a note arrived in my 'In' Tray from the ORQMS, **WO2 Chris Bell**, saying 'Beware the Ides of March!! 15 draws near! *Wire* Notes?' I thought it was about time I got a move on!

PERSONALITIES

Adjt	**Capt Alan Madsen**
AAdjt	**Lt Vicky Bright**
ORQMS	**WO2 Chris Bell**
ORS	**Sgt Brian Durlik**
Clerks	**Cpl Steve Griffiths**
	Cpl Paul Storrs
	Cpl Simon Windus
	Sig Andy Willescroft
	Sig Jason Ward
Post NCO	**Cpl Mark Gibson**

COMMANDING OFFICER'S CUP

In November RHQ took part in the CO's Cup, an annual inter-section competition. The clerks were dragged out screaming (except the bar person who shall remain anonymous but who, mysteriously, found a leave pass!) into the field for a night in trenches followed by a 10 mile march and shoot. We all retired to our offices tired and with blisters.

DINING OUT OF CAPT AND MRS T. TIFFIN

On 27 November 1987 RHQ Tp dined out the Adjutant, **Capt David Tiffin** and his wife **Fiona**, prior to his posting to Blandford as SO2 ORLO. It was a sparkling occasion and an excellent meal. We managed to beg, borrow or steal bits and pieces including the Sergeants' Mess silver for the occasion. Disaster nearly struck when, at the 11th hour, we found we had forgotten the coffee pots! But we managed to find some.

Being only a small troop our funds are limited but an all out effort was put into the preparations by **WO2 Chris Bell, Cpls Paul Storrs** and **Simon Windus** and **LCpl Keith Townsin** and the evening was a great success.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We say welcome to **Capt Alan Madsen** and his wife **Sue**. Also a temporary farewell and congratulations on his promotion to **Cpl Steve Davison** who is presently lounging around in the Falklands and to **Sig Marc Chamberlain** congratulations on his promotion and posting to 13 Sig Regt.

Congratulations also go to **Stephen** and **Michelle Griffiths** on the birth of their daughter, **Jemma Stacey**.

WO2 Chris Bell presents Capt David Tiffin with his farewell present, Mrs Fiona Tiffin looks on

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
TM TROOP
BY SSgt (FofS) Mick Cooper

PERSONALITIES

TOT	**Capt John MacDonald**
FofS	**WO1 Bob Morley**
ART RAD	**WO2 John Mann**
FofS	**SSgt Mick Cooper**
SSgt Radio	**Dutch Holland**
SSgt TE	**Dick Woodfine**

The last few months have been a busy period for both the Regiment and TM Tp with two exercises in quick succession at the beginning of the year.

Ex White Lightning proved to be a fairly quiet time technically and the majority of work was done by the troop 'swotters', **Sgts Iain McNelly, Dave Little** and **Danny 'Jonathon Ross' Warwick** studying for their FofS entrance exam. **Cpls Ally Duncan** and **'Shaky' Vaughan** were kept on their toes by the TOT for their T1 entrance exam; best of luck to all of them!

After a week off the Regiment was out on Ex Flying Falcon, which was taken very seriously by the TOT who did some low level fly pasts in the radio ERV after strapping himself to the power supply of a SDU he was working on. **Cpl 'Wogger' Waugh** the troop powerman, swears blind that he looked like one of the Ready Brek Kids for a couple of days afterwards.

The workshops 'Super FofS' mantle was handed over on 1 January by **WO2 (FofS) Fred Gardner** to **WO1 (FofS) Bob Morley** who finally threw in his hand as assistant Tech Adjt. **Fred Gardner** leaves on promotion to SPA at the end of March and **Bob Morley** follows suit in August to take up the position of TOT at 9 Sig Regt, congratulations to the pair of them. (Sits Vac FofS 14 Sig Regt. Any sensible applications considered).

The TOT will also be leaving for pastures new around August, off to 1 (BR) Corps so TM Tp will be taking on a new look for the second half of the year under the leadership of **Capt (TOT) Paul Cross**.

On the sporting front there is very little to mention as the Regiment has abandoned inter troop sports due to the fact that TM Tp kept winning everything! The only sporting triumphs of late have been **Cpl 'Strath' Lothian**'s attempts to become the BAOR demolition derby champion and the highly successful troop skiing weekend in the Harz Mountains organised by **Sgt Kev Dicks** and with **SSgt Dick Woodfine** as instructor.

Departures of late include **Sgt 'Brum' Bowlby** and wife **Gill** (on his FofS course), **Cpl Bob Wymer** and wife **Angie** (T1 course), **Cpl Paul Hubble** and wife **Tina** (T1 course) and **Cpl Ian Travers** and wife **Ann** (off to Northern Ireland).

Recent arrivals to the troop are **Sgt 'Jacko' Jackson RAOC** and wife **Tracie, Cpl Mark Appleby, LCpl 'Charlie' Brown** and his wife **Tracey, LCpl Bob Pace** and **LCpl Duncan Hewlett**, welcome to you all.

Finally if anyone in the Corps has seen **Cpl 'Wogger' Waugh**'s posting order please send it to him, ASP as he keeps getting picked up on parades for tear stained boots.

REGIMENTAL TRAINING TEAM

Having got over the festivities of Christmas and New Year, the Training Wing under went a few character changes, by saying farewell to **WO2 Tam Frize**, and a belated farewell to **SSgt (YofS) Steve McMahon**, both leaving the unit on promotion. We then welcomed **WO1 Bob Carty** and **SSgt (YofS) McCrindle** in their relevant posts, however this is not to be short lived, as both are shortly due to leave, **WO1 Carty** on commissioning and **SSgt McCrindle** on promotion to WO2, so once again, congratulations to both of you and well done, (and they say there's no promotion at 14!).

The New Year saw us once again rather busy, preparing for exercise and pre-detachment commanders course training, under the eagle eye of **SSgt Bill Dyson**, there was, however, a change this year as the CO forgot to order snow, so everyone was rather disappointed, to say the least.

MT TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Sgt Phil Sales
Cpl 'Brommie' Little
Cpl Dave Baillie
LCpl 'Hess' Heseltine
Sig 'Woody' Wooding
Sig Baz Carmichael

We say farewell to **Sig 'Whimper' Mills**, will he sign on again at 21 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Blacky' Blackledge**—'I can taste Brandy' to civvy street. We welcome **Sig Keith Kilby** from Catterick and **Sig Parkes** from 28 Sig Regt.

QM GENERAL DEPARTMENT

A few changes to report since our last contribution. We have a new RQ **WO2 (RQMS) Colin Thompson** who replaced **WO2 Bob (RQMS) McKenzie** (now SSM HQ Sqn) and **SSgt SQMS (A) Alan Jarwood** who replaced **SSgt Derek Witchell** (now SQMS HQ Sqn). All nice things happen in twos!

Maj (QM) Nick Nicoll will be leaving in April for warm, wonderful Catterick. The QM and his wife **Margot** will leave a great void in the department and the Regiment and we wish them both bon voyage.

1 SQUADRON
SHQ

With Ex Flying Falcon behind us our thoughts now turn to our next major exercise.

Continuity has been good in recent months with the arrival of **Capt J. Lugg**, as the 2IC Sqn but, unfortunately, we have lost **SSgt Mick McCrindle** to 3 Sqn (the blackleg).

3 SQUADRON
COMINGS AND GOINGS

The past few months have seen a few changes in the Squadron and these are still far from over. Firstly we have a new OC—**Maj Byrne** who joins us with his wife **Sarah**. **Capt Perry** is back for a while to recce for muddy sites on exercise and **SSgt (YofS) McCrindle** has come to sort out the communications. **SSgt Halford** hopes to do the same with the MT! Welcome also to **Cpls Foster, Hopwell, LCpls Oliver, Dowinton, Sig Boddy** and **Constable**.

Capt (Tfc) Weston is shortly departing to a staff job in the sleepy hollow of Rheindahlen—some people will do anything to get out of the WASA Lauf! **Lt Ardagh-Walter**, OC Papa Tp leaves for 30 Sig Regt—still insisting that he isn't going to play the part of Prince Regent in Blackadder. Farewell also to **LCpl** (soon to be Mr) **Pashley, Sig Bell** and **Sig Whitehead**.

PROMOTIONS

LCpls Graham, Lord, Marlowe, Prior, Scotson and **Dowinton**.

THE YEAR SO FAR

1988 has been notable for the usual early round of exercises to keep us busy, as **Sgt Munnelly** of Papa Tp reports on Ex Flying Falcon:

'Unfortunately Flying Falcon this year was marred by the lack of snow. However, putting this aside it went very well. This years exercise was split into two parts, phase 1 was communicating and phase 2 was to test our "Urban Camming" capability. Particular mention of this skill must go to **LCpl "Taff" Allen** of the Message Centre, who has now become so good in Urban Camming he has got it recorded on Pampas! This part of the exercise was so successful that OC 3 Sqn has now introduced the motto "Wherever I go so shall Urban Cam follow". Thanks must go to **SSgt Terry German** for arranging the entertainment at meal times in the form of **LCpl "Jock" Graham** singing to the troops and in particular for his splendid version of "I am a woman in love". **WO2 (YofS) Bowman** became suspicious of OC Papa Tp when he kept booking out at RADCON as "Gone to visit the DEWO". He eventually discovered that this meant "I am sneaking off to have a sleep in the harbour vehicle". The saying that they don't make soldiers like they used to, was confirmed when it was discovered that **Cpl "Cooky" Cooke** had brought a hot water bottle with him. **LCpl "Pete" Hendry** of the Int Cell was convinced by **Sgt Munnelly** that he must cam up his vehicle even though we were inside a disused factory, completely out of sight. On Ex Morning Glory, during the very early hours on 15 February panic arose in the sleep's tent when we were woken with the screams for help, the source was not discovered until the next day when it was identified as the attached tech from TM Tp, **LCpl Wharton**. Apparently his sleeping bag liner had got tangled around his throat and he had dreamed that he was being strangled. He was informed that if he did it the next night that was exactly what would happen to him'.

LOOKING AHEAD

No doubt the rest of the year will be just as busy. We are looking forward to the semi-finals of the General's Cup football competition and also taking part in all the other sporting events planned, not to mention a few more exercises!

RIVER ALLER SWIM

As the rain came lashing in through the complex tent on Ex White Lightning, **Lt Andy White** was quietly planning the finer points of this year's Aller Swim, the 22nd annual swim down the River Aller which flows through Celle.

In previous year, ice breakers have been sent downstream to clear the water for the swimmers. Fortunately for us, however, this year was a little milder and nearly 200 swimmers from diving clubs all over Germany both civilian and military arrived to take part. Many more had also come along to watch the swimmers, they lined the route to cheer them on.

It was with a great sense of occasion that the Oberburgermeister of Celle declared the swim open whereupon **Lt Col John Stokoe** promptly dived in, closely followed by OC Regimental Diving **Lt Andy White** and **Yeoman Mick McCrindle**. Hot on their heels were **Sig Danny Coomber, LCpl Mark 'Charlie' Brown** and **LCpl 'Jack' Hawkins** and together we all began to swim downstream slowly warming up as we travelled further down river. It wasn't long before the half-way point was in sight and we steered over to collect some gluhwein. The warm glow of the drink in our stomachs did wonders for the spirit in more ways than one, and we were sent on our way with traditional candle torches.

As the day turned to dusk the river was illuminated in a magical way by all the swimmers who were by now singing quite merrily as they drifted under the small bridges packed with people waving us on. Finally, after crawling up the river bank at the finish we all had a quick shower before the buffet and prize giving.

Karl Stroher, head of the German Life Saving Society thanked **Lt Col John Stokoe** for hosting such a successful Anglo-German event and **Lt Andy White** for organising it, not forgetting of course **Sgt Durlik** who did so much behind the scenes.

All good things come to an end and sadly it was time to bid a fond farewell to our visitors until next year's Aller Swim.

TUG-OF-WAR

There is still keen interest in Tug-of-War in the Regiment even though some of our 'stars' such as **Cpl Russ Dalton, Dave Lynch**, and **Sig Al Hawes** have left us on posting.

The Regiment won at 680kg at the RCZ outdoors and at 640kg and 680kg indoors last year, but still failed to make any real impression on the Artillery units in the BAOR competitions.

We look forward to a very busy year, and exercises permitting, intend to enter every possible competition.

SIERRA TROOP

The Exercise Season got fully underway with Ex Primary Class and Ex Fast Buck. The Troop OC **Lt Shelagh MacLeod** made an early bid for the golden blanket but soon abandoned the challenge as **Cpl 'Trooper' Smith** stormed ahead with a regular 18 hour booking.

Sgt Pete Griffith soon displayed an ability to transform visits to local Dets into tours around BAOR.

The beers were bought however, by **LCpl Mark 'what's 100km between friends' Gray** and **Sig Mark 'last in Belgium' Whitby** for successfully vanishing for four days. **Cpls 'Geordie' Marshall** and **Stevie Moore** are considering designing a Landrover with armchairs fitted to the bonnet in anticipation of the next exercise.

Many thanks to 1 ADSR, 3 ADSR, 7 Sig Regt and 12 Flt AAC for their help with SCRA(T) during the exercise.

Welcome to **LCpls Steven Toon** and **'Robo' Robinson** and his wife **June**.

To **Lt 'Max' Tait**, now with ORLO, Blandford, farewell and best wishes for the future on her marriage to **Capt Bruce Knobel**.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Celia Staples WRAC**
AO/OC X Tp	**Capt Alison Mann WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt (Tfc) Geoff Downey**
YofS	**WO2 Ron Allen**
FofS	**WO2 Tony Sarginson**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Knight**
Tp SSgt O Tp	**SSgt Angie Warnes**
Tp SSgt X Tp	**Flt Sgt Ian Weetch**
SSgt Crypto	**SSgt Dave Price**
SSgt Syscon	**SSgt John Graves**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

There has been a recent large turnover in the Squadron, too many to mention. We therefore wish all those personnel leaving the Squadron good luck and best wishes for the future. A special mention however, must go to OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Celia Staples WRAC** who is relinquishing her command on posting to Hong Kong. We wish her and her husband all the very best and say a big thank you for all she has done for the Squadron.

PROMOTIONS

A number of people are to be congratulated on their promotion: **Cpl Paul Youd** to Sergeant, **Pte Gray** and **Hollingworth** to Lance Corporals.

RECENT EVENTS

The Squadron has been very busy over the last few months especially with Ex Fast Buck, Ex Flying Falcon and Ex Crested Eagle to name but a few. The exercises over, we got down to real trianing for Regimental Battle Camp, when the Squadron spent four days on Leuth Training Area. The new Comd WRAC BAOR, **Col Kelly** paid us a visit on 18 January.

DINING OUT OC 1 SQUADRON
by Sgt Fiona Beardwell WRAC

On Saturday 19 March the Officers and SNCOs of 1 Sqn gathered together in the Garrison Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Rheindahlen for a Regimental Dinner in honour of **Maj Celia Staples WRAC** who is departing after three years for the sunnier climes of Hong Kong.

WO2 (YosS) Ron Allan took on the task of organising the event and did a splendid job as PMC (he only managed to give out 20 extras!). **Sgt Paul Youd** from our Emblem Det carried out the duties of **Mr Vice**.

Sgt Brenda Cox entertained those of us in the 'cheap seats', and certain members of the top table with her napkin folding abilities. We look forward to the next Dinner to see what other surprises she has in store. During a lull in the proceedings we were invaded by a Scottish Clan, complete with kilts flying and beards fixed, they managed to add a certain chaos to the event. Once the Yeoman had come down from the ceiling. **SSgt John Graves, SSgt Dave Price** and **Sgt 'Jock' Gibson** returned to their seats and normality returned. By the way, no prizes for guessing whose idea it was.

Thanks must go to **Sgt Derek Green** from the Garrison Mess who provided excellent service with the assistance of **Pte Debra Berry, Sig Steve Culham** and **Jason Budding** (even though they did refuse to wear a skirt!).

All members of 1 Sqn wish both **Majs Celia** and **John Staples** good luck for the future and an enjoyable tour in Hong Kong.

The Top Table, from *L-R:* WO2 Ron Allen, Mrs Jenny Downey, Capt Geoff Downey, Maj Celia Staples, Capt Allison Mann and Maj John Staples

Sgt Brenda Cox is up to her old tricks again, with the napkins, I think she is trying to communicate with it

JHQ TELEPHONE EXCHANGE — X TROOP

The last four months saw the following movements within X Troop: We bade farewell to **LCpl Jo Hughes** on local discharge. New arrivals have been: **Cpl Kay Gibson** from 238 Sig Sqn on promotion, **Pte Sarch Gibson** from 242 Sig Sqn, **Pte Hayley Ward** from 8 Sig Regt and **Pte Lynn Fawkes** got married in January and now answers to the name of **Findlay**.

EXERCISES

A fair response to Ex Snow Queen by X Troop personnel with **LCpl Allison Glover, Pte Doreen Marr** and **Pte Caroline Wall** taking part.

EXERCISE MIXED MEMORIES 2

1 Sqn's mini Battle Camp took place on 14-18 March. All X Troop WRAC personnel who took part enjoyed it and now look forward to 16 Sig Regt Battle Camp Ex Mixed Blessings.

VISITS

Comd WRAC, **Col A. A. Kelly** paid a visit to the Exchange in 18 January 1988. The visit was very successful, and enjoyable.

EXERCISE MIXED MEMORIES

A Report by SSgt John Graves

The season of goodwill now well behind us, the Squadron embarked on its annual Battle Camp in preparation for the Regimental Battle Camp which we believe is in preparation for the Brigade Battle Camp.

The camp took the form of two, two day training periods with half of the Squadron on each camp. The camp management was led by **SSgt Ian Knight** ably assisted by the 'volunteer' senior ranks as DS.

The lads and lasses were divided into sections and passed from stand to stand where the DS taught them all they knew, and for the next hour made it all up. The DS were as follows: Pyrothechnics/Fieldcraft **WO2 (YofS) 'auf Deutch bitte' Allan** and **Sgt 'as one is' Newell**; Weapons/NBC **Sgt 'half moon or pyramid' Kent**; Map Reading **Sgt Elain 'pathfinder' Hunter**; Verbal Orders/First Aid **Cpl 'snip snip' Prowse** and Trench and Hygiene **Sgts Dave Ryan, Paul Draper** and **Ian Richardson.**

During the first two days we were well supported by **Capt Alison Mann WRAC** who left us when she found that the Leuth puddles were not joined together and could not be canoed. After a strenuous daytime at Leuth, 0600-1700 hrs, the sections were able to totally relax for half an hour, before building their bashas, eating, washing and getting ready for night patrols at 1730 hrs. Night patrols and night navigation was fun, for me, but frightening for them. When would we be ambushed? I'm not telling. Are there any bears in the wood? Check the rabbits. Will I get attacked? Not with that amount of cam cream, Madam. The night wore on and all sections having found their RV's and rations for the next day, returned footsore to bed. The supreme DS in the sky decided at this stage to throw down some water just to make the Troops really happy. We poor DS in our centrally heated deluxe GT XLR Ritz could almost hear their cries of 'Thank you Lord for your blessings upon us'. Nevertheless, a new day dawned, and with Leuth a morass, it seemed only fair to introduce Ladies Mud Wrestling to the programme, but also I was voted down and more field craft was called for. Mud Wrestling and Kitten Crawl on Leuth Training Area are one and the same as was demonstrated by **Pte Jean Wray** who misunderstood the command 'Instructors Only'.

Awards after Battle Camp were made in the following catagories: The Silver Tow Rope—**Sig Culham** for losing his vehicle in a hole; The empty Blank—**Cpl Prowse** for his recent medical experiences and Honoury Ammunition Technical Officer—**WO2 (YofS) Allan** for his outstanding control of the Schermuly.

2 SQUADRON

EXERCISE SNOW TIME

A Report by Cpl 'Cass' Cassidy Sierra Troop

The aim of the exercise was to evaluate the interest of the Troop in the sport of Skiing. This being quickly established, a party of 11 intrepid men deployed to the Winterberg slopes. Despite an early start, spirits were high, some members no doubt looking forward to the Apres-Ski, (I wonder if they can fit Skis to my wheel-chair).

On arrival at Winterberg, Skis boots and poles were quickly hired and it was off to the Piste.

Those non-skiers/absolute beginners were given a brief but effective tutorial on the art by our tame instructor **Sig 'Chalkie' White**, and then it was off to defy gravity by proving there is more than one way to stop, some of us, more often than we care to admit. However dusting off the snow we proceeded to the ticket office to buy our lift passes, (no they do not include the Ski-Jump).

Negotiating the T-bar lift should have been a lesson by itself as some of us were determined to do it our way and failed to make it to the top whilst others tried to go round the top and take the easy way out and come back down again without paying for a return journey.

Lunch was a staggered affair, with some people unable to drag themselves from the slopes long enough to eat and others bruised, battered but not dispirited, determined to beat the emergency stop procedures.

By early afternoon almost everyone was avoiding snow drifts and confidence was growing, a little too fast for some, as **Sig 'Banzai' Betts** was finding out even on the flat bits between Pistes. The Kamikaze twins **Sig 'Whiteout' Whitby** and **'Killer' Henderson**, continued to astound everyone by achieving speeds, that would make Franz Klammer proud and, still not falling over.

All too soon it was time to bid farewell to the slopes of Winterberg and head off back to the flat lands of Krefeld. It should be mentioned that everyone enjoyed the day out tremendously and it is hoped that the exercise can be repeated again in the not too distant future.

3 SQUADRON

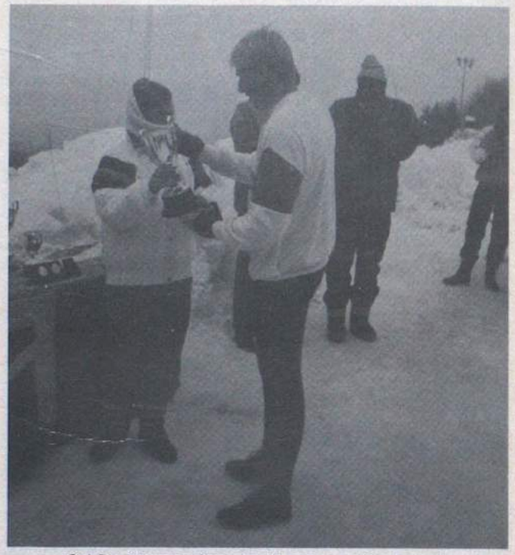
ALPHA TROOP

It is almost six months since the intrepid members of Alpha Tp took their lives into their own hands and decided that Luge was for them. Although well publicised in BAOR, surprisingly few could be selected to form the Army Squad and later the Army Team, so competition was fierce. The aim of everyone taking part, is to become a member of the Great Britain Luge Team in the 1992 Olympic Games.

It was **Sig Fardy** and **Fleming** who made the grade and after only a short preparation time it was off to Innsbruck/Igls for the first competitive slide. The UK Novice Championships provided good results: **Sig Fardy**—second place and **Sig Fleming**—seventh place.

The BAOR Championships followed soon after; **Cpl Bavister** (a really novice novice!) joined the Alpha Tp duo and achieved first place in the Novice Slide whilst in the mens slide event: **Sig Fardy**—third place and **Sig Fleming**—fifth place.

Watching the event was **Gen Sir Brian Kenny** (Commander-in-Chief and Chairman Army Winter Sports) who undoubtedly realised, by the success of the three pioneering Troop members, that Alpha Tp was certainly not going downhill!



Cpl Bavister receives medal and cup (first place)

Sig Fardy, Sig Fleming, Mr X and Cpl Bavister pose for the camera!

STOP PRESS

RCZ INDIVIDUAL ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations go to **Sig 'Taff' O'Connor** and **Sig Pete Lagden** in attaining first and second respectively in the M19 class of this years' RCZ Individual Orienteering Championships held at Wetter.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

Like the rest of BAOR, much of the last few months has been filled with exercises. Despite this the Regiment has managed to acquit itself well in sport primarily Skiing and Rugby. The Regiment is now preparing for the onset of our DAMA inspection.

EXERCISE CLOSE ENCOUNTER/CRESTED EAGLE

Hard on the heels of Ex Flying Falcon the Regiment deployed on Ex Close Encounter and Crested Eagle which ran consecutively. The normal exercise format of these exercises was followed, but inevitably there were the unique one off incidents.

On deployment a small team from 4 Sqn led by **2Lt Bill Fathers** and **SSgt Fred Bennett** headed West as every one else went East. Their aim was to set up with our Belgian Allies. They established communication without any problem but kept complaining about their accommodation. Net time could the Ops staff arrange 5 star hotels and not 4! Despite their complaints the Technical Adjutant, **Capt Geoff Chaloner**, was in his element, with the Belgian comms in it was time to bring in the Germans. After numerous liaison telephone calls in Anglo-German, he despatched himself for the personal touch. Lo and behold we were soon through to the German Corps. Still not satisfied he continued his search for technical excellence by establishing comms to the French Army just for good measure. Rumour has it that nobody has ever seen the Technical Adjutant smile so much. The Ops Officer, **Maj Bob Binham**, with his crew of **WO1 (YofS) Brian Greenwood, WO2 (YofS) Jim Storey, SSgt Bill Ruthven** and **SSgt Mick Uttley** were delighted that he was away doing all this so that they could play with the system.

Whilst all this was going on, the Adjutant, **Capt Gordon Rafferty**, decided that as the exercise scenario was too sensitive, he would create his own version of 'War and Peace' cunningly disguised as Intreps.

Trunk Nodes were eagerly awaiting the news from the front. Indeed when the Corps Commander, **Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge KCB**, visited the CP complex he spent 15 minutes listening to the 'Rafferty Plan'; afterwards opinions by the CO, 2IC, RSM and Ops Officer were divided as to whether the Corps Commander thought that the Adjutant was a tactical genius or read too many comics!

After this the Corps Commander visited the rest of the Access Node. At least he did not stand-to MAN 003 as he had with **Lt Neil Longley**'s TN 013 but that's another story. Still, Echo Tp did manage to achieve an incredibly long SHF circuit for most of the exercise (we don't ask the distance, it changes after a few beers) but it was all due to **Cpls Chris Batt** and **Andy Saunders**.

Meanwhile 3 Sqn had the full confidence of their OC, **Maj Mike Hanrahan**, so much in fact that he laid a bet with **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**. Unfortunately they lost. This said, it did not prevent the Squadron paying off the debt with a sense of panache. When **Brig Waugh** visited **2Lt Tim Carmichael**'s location he was greeted by a waiter, resplendent in dinner jacket, presenting a bottle of champagne.

Champagne was also evident at endex when the Rear Corps HQ Staff held an impromptu soiree for **Maj Robin Cuthbert** as this was his last exercise as 'OC One'; he is now off to the Falkland Islands Never let it be said that exercises are all the same.

Ex Flying Falcon, a name engraved upon every BAOR Signaller's heart. Here the memory of just one Squadron (3) sums it up . . .

Once again 3 Sqn crashed out of barracks at an ungodly hour to start Ex Flying Falcon. Golf Tp lead by **2Lt Phil Harlow** was given a 24 hour head start because they were missing their 'guiding light', **Sgt Jim McLachlan**, who was on his staffies. By the time the OSC management arrived at Golf Tp, led by the 'dynamic duo' (tallest OSC shift in BAOR) **FofS Paul Cooper** and **YofS Kevin Parker**, the node home had become a quagmire. The vehicle ruts were deep enough to hide both the FofS and the YofS in them. **SSgt Nigel Samm** kept stating the node site had limitations, but it was the best available. The factory across the road with hard standing, showers and heated sleeping rooms was used by the next trunk node in site, which really impressed the lads. **SSM Brian Cullen** kept visiting other nodes to avoid getting his boots dirty. Mud could have been part of Golf Tp's master plan to keep visitors away.

Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**, descended from the heavens and spoke the correct code word into a subset to SEP; Earth Calling SEP. Golf Tp was immediately transformed into 'High Price Demo' troop and spent the remainder of the exercise on the golf course entertaining staff officers from Denmark, Germany, Saudi Arabia, etc, etc, etc.

The OSC unfortunately moved in with India Tp commanded by **2Lt Tim (I only get confused never lost) Carmichael**, in the deep snow. The OSC night shift, **Sgts Howarth** and **Holt**, would have had a sense of humour failure had it not been for a fresh supply of 'moments' (ie cigars) procured on the way to the location.

Tragedy struck India's node command when Percy the Percolator gave up the ghost after 10 exercise seasons and thousands of cups of excellent coffee. Percy was buried with full military honours including a 13 gun salute. The visiting Americans and passing German locals were struck dumb by this ceremony. A new percolator was quickly procured, however, **SSgt Tim Wallis** preserved Percy's memory by drinking only tea until endex.

Meanwhile Hotel Tp led by **Lt John Fraser** moved off its windy pimple in the middle of the German plain into a factory. **Sgt 'Skims' Skimming** truly impressed Comd Comms on the RR plan however, **Lt Fraser** will never let **Sgt Skimming** forget the 'Pedigree Chum' Shepherds pie. There will be no dogs on exercise in Hotel Tp for a while, rumour has it.

Ex Flying Falcon will be remembered for its pace, visits and, more importantly, the constant request to accept more shots with less access.

CROSS-COUNTRY

It is 1800 on a mild March evening. The day's skiing was curtailed in mid-afternoon by a steady downpour, and now the Sunday evening calm is shattered by the shrill call of the first ice-cream van of the year. I scribble a brief note to *The Times* and reflect that while another mammoth cross-country season lumbers off to die with dignity, the Adjutant, with unseemly haste, has cast me in the role of pathologist and is already screaming for the post mortem results.

As always this has been a season of great achievement for Corps athletes, culminating in a superb victory for 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the Army championships in Aldershot, which serves to remind us that Royal Signals is still a major force in Army cross-country running.

April sees the inaugural running of the BAOR Inter-Unit Championships hosted by 7 Sig Regt. It is hard to understand why such an event has not been included before in the sporting calendar, and it will certainly be keenly contested. The race will also assist selection of the team to represent the Corps in the Inter-Corps Championships on 19 April.

At Regimental level the winter has seen a steady increase in the number of runners assembling at the Guardroom at lunchtimes willing to spend their Wednesdays boosting the 3 Armd Div league attendance. The early part of the season was all glory with our strongest athletes unbeatable in the league. Mid-November saw the departure of our Nordic skiers however, and it was left to the middle order runners to try to hold the opposition at bay. **Sgt Andy Trivett** trained throughout the winter intent on taking a few scalps when the biathletes returned to Lippstadt, and the single-mindedness with which he pursued his aim was duly rewarded. Sadly though the effort of chasing the league title without the aid of our top runners proved too much and we will be leaving a strong 26 Engr Regt team to collect the winners trophies when the final race is run on Wednesday 23 March.

No doubt by the time we start to think about cross-country again we will have some new faces amongst us, and several familiar ones will have taken their leave. **Capt Phil Brown** had delayed his departure for Blandford until after the final race and we will all miss the cheerful enthusiasm from which the School of Signals will soon benefit. **Cpl Steve Burke** has been 'up there' with the leaders on many occasions and is also off shortly. We wish them both all the very best.

But life will go on without them—the trees will still blossom, the days grow warmer and longer, and pretty soon we will savour the smell of new-mown grass as we strive to mould a happy bunch of lads into a strong athletics team. The Morrison Cup is just around the corner . . .

(Afternote: **WO2 Wood** was correct about 26 Engr Regt, unfortunately)!

3 DIVISION MAJOR UNITS RUGBY FINAL

22 Sig Regt v 26 Fd Regt RE

In the absence of a correespondent from 'Rugby Post' or the 'Western Mail' we were lucky enough to meet **Bill McClaren's** brother who wrote this report: (Please add your own Edinburgh accent!).

'So here we are on a cold and windy day at a veritable cauldron of Army Rugby; Salamanca Barracks, where so many mighty teams have met. This day is no exception, before they kick off, I have just enough time to tell you about the Signals team:

At fullback we have a real will-o-the-wisp in **LCpl Dai Evans** who has not only represented the school to which he was sentenced for three years (home games only), but also Battersea Dogs Home (which is why he was sent there in the first place). In the centres there are the terrible twins in **SSgt 'Q' Gilder** and **Capt Jonathon Clews** and if you've seen them play you'd know why they are called terrible. The Signals also have two huge wingers with great pace, skill and scoring records, unfortunately they haven't been posted to 22 Sig Regt so they have to make do with **Cpl "Doz" Day** and **Sig "Jonah" Jones**. The half back pairing of **Cpl Dave Wood** and **SSgt Nigel Samm** should be an interesting one, as one can't pass and the the other can't catch. However, looking at the pack they shouldn't be troubled by such trivialities as possession. The Signals back row has had an injection of pace and aggression in a new boy, **Sgt Kev Winkles**, so let's hope that the 26 Engineers have had their Rabies and Tetanus boosters. Another flanker is that old warhorse **SSgt Keith Leighton**, who seems to crop up at Cup Finals. At No 8 we have a gentle giant in **SSgt (FofS) Terry Waites** who had recently been savaged by a REME No 8, and then his wife after his flexible friend proved a little too flexible on tour. The Signals team have a real power house in the front five, boasting no less than ten caps, five woolly hats and trilby between them. Big **Lt Graham Deans** leads the pack from the front, with **Cpl Kev Tunstall** his partner in the second row, and I can tell you they build them pretty big in Glasgow and not very big in Cumbria. And finally to the dark denizens of the front row with **Cpl "Tank" Sherman** topping 16 stones and **Cpl Phil Price** topping 16½ stones and Wee Hooker in **Cpl 'Pig Pen' Anderson** topping the Christmas tree. The replacements, well, I can tell you their combined age is over 120 years old and that's just **WO1 (RSM) Johnson** and that old stalwart **Maj (QM) Geordie Gainford** a fine servant to the club and making his 150th appearance in *The Wire*. Well I've spent so much time talking about the team that the game is into its 60th minute. Some notable highlights in the first half are as follows:-

A shock, **Cpl Wood** loses the toss despite providing the coin.

Double shock, the Engineers have taken their option to make the wrong decision and play downhill.

Mega shock—the first punch wasn't thrown until well into the first maul.

"Tank" Sherman didn't throw it.

The Signals defended for 40 minutes in their 22.

The Signals team went in at half time with the knowledge that they are 4—3 up and are playing downhill with the wind behind them in the second half.

The second half began with a confused line out which enabled **"Jonah" Jones** to score a good try. The Engineers fought back and scored well until the end of the match, the final score of 28—7 for 22 Sig Regt. A truly memorable and emotional day for the "young" Signals side.

As a footnote, our resident physiotherapist, **Lt Roger Cotterell**, has moved on to not only a new posting, but a new Corps! His career in the RAMC is assured, after all he did practise on us long enough. His farewell was in true Rugby Club tradition but we were a little disappointed when he failed to drink a bottle of Algipan whilst singing "Great Balls of Fire".

But all in all a hard physical game, no quarter was asked for or given, some fine individual skills were displayed under difficult conditions and naturally after plenty of beer in the third half everyone went home, "tired and emotional".'

Team Captain receiving 3 Div Major Units Cup from Brig R. A. Smith, Cpl Wood looks delighted

REGIMENTAL NORDIC SKIING END OF SEASON REPORT

It was with a great sigh of relief that the Nordic ski team, led by **Capt Phil Brown**, drove out of Lippstadt on 28 November, destined for Nordseter. So Ex Polar Triangle, the Regimental nordic ski training camp in Norway had begun. The previous weeks of dry training roller skis and exercise preparation has served only to swell the urge of the team to get back onto snow. 36 hours later the team had docked in Oslo to find plenty of snow and promising cold conditions.

The camp was based in a large chalet called 'Fjellhytten' situated in the hills above Nordseter near Lillehammer. Facilities were shared with the ski teams of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and AAC Harrogate. It was sometimes difficult to forget how isolated the hut was with 24 soldiers living in such close confines. Visitors were few and far between because they needed to climb a downhill slope first. Moving in was, as always, a laborious process.

An ex RAF Sergeant, **Cameron Davies** was hired to give instruction to the novices, a job he did excellently and the juniors from Harrogate came on very well. Meanwhile the senior skiers were allowed to get on with the distance training without the hindrance of giving lessons. **Cpl Bob Anderson** proved to be a good hut Sergeant Major and **LCpl 'Smudger' Smith** and **Cpl Stevie Burke** formulated the training programme. Long steady distance was the underlying theme of the training but icy cold range sessions, fartlek and interval work were included to provide a balance to the camp.

The conditions in December could not have been much better. Heavy snow falls during November ensured tracks could be cut three times a week despite the lack of snowfall during the camp. There were, however a few injuries. **Sig Archie Gemmell** managed to find the only muscle in his shoulder to pull on his very first day. **LCpl Chris Childs** suffered from a very bad chest cough and insisted on having a room to himself and **Sig 'Quad' Harland** managed to collide into the towbar hut at the foot of the local ski slope. Such an abrasive show of downhill technique on skinny skis was to stop **'Quad'** from training for two weeks. Meanwhile, **LCpl Mark Johnson**, a junior novice, not famous for giving too much away, was keeping **Sig 'Bopper' Bromiley** and **LCpl Col Fraser**, both second year skiers, well within his sights.

Lillehammer was frequented by all on the very occasional night off. Any minor conquests were very short lived indeed. After a fairly rigid three week routine, it was with some anticipation that the team headed south to spend three days over Christmas 'relaxing' in Lippstadt. This mini break did wonders for morale but alas the snow in Rohpolding simply did not exist. Despite this the seven days of training was devoted to combination work, that is running and shooting, in the excellent biathlon centre. **H. F. W. Müller** of the Bundeswher provided invaluable assistance on the range. The annual exchange of presents within the team initiated the New Year's Eve celebrations. Needless to say, the first day of the year was a rare day off.

And so to Fulpmes. The weather forecasters predictions of imminent snow falls were sounding increasingly hollow. Some training in altitude was possible during the six day build up to the Divisional Championships but the preparations were far from satisfactory. The competition commenced on 10 January. Experience from the previous year had warned the team that 3 Division was certainly the hardest of the three. Things started well with **Sig Harland** securing second junior place in the opening 10km race, despite wanting to do an extra circuit before finishing. The following day saw

The MGRA has a quiet word with Cpl Stevie Burke during the pre patrol race inspection. Capt Phil Brown, Sig Quad Harland and LCpl Martin Smith are anxious to start

the first team race; the 4 × 100km relay. Despite an excellent start by **LCpl Smith** and reasonable runs by the rest of the team, it finished a disappointing seventh. It was to set the trend for the remaining team results. However, all was not bad. **Capt Phil Brown** managed to clear down twice at the range for the first and probably last time in the biathlon relay. The team was fifth in the patrol race and wasted not a single round at the range.

Despite the gloomy rumours from Zwiesel about the poor snow conditions, the squad, now reduced to six, travelled to the Bohemian forest for the Army and British National Championships on 20 February. At last the snow began to fall and with the team's fortunes turned. **Sig 'Quad' Harland** came eighth in the Junior National 10km race and **Cpl Stevie Burke** shot and skied very well to come fourteenth in the National 20km Biathlon race. In the 4 × 10km relay, 15km and biathlon relay the team picked up six, five and three Princess Marina points respectively. In the latter race **LCpl 'Smudger' Smith** gashed his knee so badly that he required stitches at the end of the race. He still had one of the quickest times of the day. Fortunately it was the last team event to be staged.

The military patrol race is considered to be the show piece of the championships. Invariably it decides the outcome of the coveted Princess Marina competition which is determined by the combined results from seven team events from both disciplines. The race consists of a technical inspection where the equipment is checked, then the senior officers inspection and eventually a 30km course over undulating territory. Each member of the four man patrol carries about 10kg which includes a rifle and pack. Five rounds of ammunition is carried by each man to use at the range in the latter stages of the race to fire at 15 targets. Time bonuses can be awarded depending on the number of targets hit. Only equipment carried by the patrol at the start of the race can be used. It is, without a doubt, the most gruelling of races, often lasting up to two hours or more!

The Army patrol race this year actually ran along the German-Czechoslovakian border in places. Despite the pre race drama of a leaking gas burner the team went through the inspections without incident. An early morning chill quickly disappeared and the day warmed up rapidly but the tracks were still icy so the downhill stretches had to be negotiated with care. All was going well until **LCpl**

LCpl Martin Smith composing himself on the range during the biathlon relay

Cpl Bob Anderson beasting himself during the biathlon relay at Fulpmes

Smith chose the wrong time of the year to break the only ski to get broken in the season. Fortunately, a shortened ski was carried but the change over caused a crucial delay. At the range the well rehearsed drill and excellent markmanship earned the team a 10 minute bonus. They had cleared down with three rounds to spare. The improvised ski inevitably hampered progress on the final push to the finish but a good race time and the range bonus helped to team to get third Army position, narrowly missing second place by half a minute.

At the end of the season the team were the fifth best Nordic team in the Army. In the Princess Marina the results of the alpine and nordic events gave the Regiment fourth place. Having lost **Cpl Scott** and **LCpl Davies** at the end of last season, the team is now losing **Cpl Stevie Burke** and **Capt Phil Brown**. More juniors are needed to bolster the squad in order to rebuild the team. As an example of what is possible, **LCpl Mark Johnson** has joined **Sig Wayne Harland** in the National Development Squad, after his first season.

Inter-Service Downhill Race, Meribel, Cpl Brown

ROYAL SIGNALS BAOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1988 Royal Signals BAOR Squash Championships were held on the 14/15 March 1988 at the Ahorn Sportpark, Paderborn. There were 24 entries (a tremendous improvement of previous years) for the seven competitions to be played over the two days so all competitors were kept busy either on the court or marking and refereeing other matches. After some 70 hard fought and skilful matches played with enthusiasm and in the best sporting manner all the finalists were known by midday on the second day.

The Open Final was contested by **WO2 Bill Hutton** (22 Sig Regt) and **LCpl Shaun Humphreys** (4ADSR). **Hutton** managed to contain his much younger opponent and won the first two games 9—2, 9—2, however, **Humphreys** pushed hard and took the third game 9—1. After a long hard fought fourth game **Hutton** went on to win the game 10—8 and the match 3—1, thus retaining the Open Championships for the third year. In the under-25 final **LCpl Humphreys** gained consolation by beating **LCpl Dave Gallagher** (22 Sig Regt) 3—0 to take the Cup for the second year. **WO2 Hutton** was also in action in the over-35 final against **Capt Billy Miles** (7 Sig Regt) who had only resumed playing squash the week before due to a knee injury but **Miles** put up a gallant fight before losing 3—1.

The complete results were as follows:-

Open	
Winner	**WO2 (SSM) Hutton** (22 Sig Regt)
Runner-up	**LCpl Humphreys** (4 ADSR)
3rd Place	**LCpl Gallagher** (22 Sig Regt)
4th Place	**Capt (QM) Miles** 7 Sig Regt)
Under-25's	
Winner	**LCpl Humphreys** (4 ADSR)
Runner-up	**LCpl Gallagher** (22 Sig Regt)
Over-35's	
Winner	**WO2 (SSM) Hutton** (22 Sig Regt)
Runner-up	**Capt (QM) Miles** (7 Sig Regt)
Classic Plate	
Winner	**Capt Stapleton** (206 Sig Sqn)
Runner-up	**SSgt Williams** (3 ADSR)
2nd Round Plate	
Winner	**WO1 (FofS) Morley** (14 Sig Regt)
Runner-up	**SSgt McCubbin** (1 ADSR)
1st Round Plate	
Winner	**Sig Knowles** (7 Sig Regt)
Runner-up	**Sgt Woodley** (22 Sig Regt)
Saucer	
Winner	**Sgt Broadbank** (22 Sig Regt)
Runner-up	**Cpl Cairns** (1 ADSR)

As a result of these Championships the following were selected to represent the Corps at the BAOR Inter-Corps Championships on the following days:- **Capt (QM) Miles** (7 Sig Regt), **Capt Stapleton** (206 Sig Sqn), **WO2 (SSM) Hutton** (22 Sig Regt), **SSgt Hall** (22 Sig Regt), **SSgt Williams** (3 ADSR), **LCpl Gallagher** (22 Sig Regt), **LCpl Humphreys** (4 ADSR), **WO2 (SSM) Orrell** (200 Sig Sqn) Team Manager.

This competition was organised in a 'pool system'. In the first part of the competition the Royal Signals were pooled with the RMP, RAEC and REME (B) teams.

The Royal Signals won against all three with 5—0 against the RAEC, 4—1 to the RMP and 4—1 to REME (B). As a result of these excellent wins we were placed with the other three pool winners to play off for positions 1-4 in the second part of the competition. Our opponents for this pool were REME (A), APTC and RCT. Unfortunately the Corps was beaten in this round, however, we finished fourth out of 15 teams in this year, our best effort ever. If we had not lost **LCpls Humphreys** and **Gallagher** through injury then the result against the APTC and RCT may have been better. Special mention of **SSgt Dave Hall** and **SSgt 'Taff' Williams** who both playing extremely well in their first Corps representative match.

WO2 (SSM) Mike Duffin posing on Shirley Heights with English Habour behind him

WO2 (SSM) Mike Duffin was fortunate enough to escape from the wilds of Lippstadt to go sailing in the Caribbean; here is his report:-

EXERCISE CARIBBEAN VENTURE 1987/88

Ex Caribbean Venture is an adventurous sail training exercise arranged under the auspices of the Royal Signals Yacht Club (UK). It involved the sailing of the 36ft cruiser/racer *Firebird of Gosport* in various passages from the UK to Gibraltar, the Canaries and the islands of the East Caribbean during the period 5 October 1987 to 24 April 1988. To allow maximum participation the exercise was divided into 10 consecutive legs with different crews for each. I was a member on leg six from 4-24 January, with the boat based in Antigua and sailing to the Windward Islands.

All the crew met at Gatwick and flew to Antigua via Miami. I was to be the mate and the rest of the crew were; **Maj J. Barrett MBE, Maj J. Russell, Sgts A. Morgan** and **S. Dale, Cpl G. Hone, LCpl A. Petch, Cfn P. McArdle** and two WRAC **Ptes S. Allsop** and **P. Williams**. We were able due to take over the boat from **Sgt Alan Morgan** who was in Antigua, but unfortunately **Maj Barrett** suffered a family bereavement and his arrival was delayed, so **Sgt Morgan** stayed for an extra week, until **Maj Barrett** rejoined us.

Bad weather and heavy seas meant that the majority of the first week was spent in the shelter of English harbour instead of getting sail experience, we spent the time sight-seeing in Antigua and roasting in the sun. Soon though, we were sailing for St Maarten to let **Sgt Alan Morgan** catch his return flight; en route we stopped off at St Barts. After a few days in our new port we decided that the Windward Islands were not possible due to the extremely high winds, hence we returned to St Barts. However, soon we set sail again for the well known island of St Kitts.

This was a firm favourite with all the crew, and was exactly as we had expected a Caribbean island to be; thriving Rastafarian Community, a lot of steel band music and excellent local dishes, mainly fish. It was absolutely idyllic and nobody really wanted to leave, but all good things must come to an end and we decided to return to English harbour early to prepare the boat for handover/takeover by the next crew.

The remaining days were spent sunbathing, sight-seeing and buying the odd souvenir. **Maj Barrett** being skipper on leg seven, saw us all of at the Airport, thereby ending an extremely enjoyable exercise, during which we had covered 280nm over 21 days, including 14 night hours of sailing.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

NEWS FROM REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

We said farewell to the Adjutant, **Capt Paul Wilkin**, who left on promotion, to take command of a Squadron at the Army Apprentice College. We congratulate him and wish him every success at Harrogate. In his place we welcome **Capt Andrew Trimble**, who arrived from 7 Sig Regt, Herford. So far, he has been kept fairly busy with the odd major exercise and an active edge!

On the Operational Front, there have been even more changes. Firstly, our 'other Adjutant (Technical Adjutant) **Capt Dick Good** has also been promoted and posted. He has left us to command a Squadron at 21 Sig Regt. We wish him an enjoyable tour at Wildenrath. Taking up the reins on the equipment side is **Capt Chris Millard**, who joins us from the School of Signals, Blandford, having successfully completed the Telecommunications Engineering Management Course. His first major task will be to master all that newly acquired knowledge in German!

Finally, our famous Operations Officer, **Capt 'Steady Eddy' Jones** has been posted back to England to 2 Sig Bde, Corsham. He will be greatly missed, not only in the Regiment, but throughout the NORTHAG Signal Support Group, especially during exercises. We welcome **Capt Jack Cowen**, who has moved from 14 Sig Regt (via a short stay in the Falklands). Thankfully, we do not have another major exercise until June, so he will have a short breathing space before taking up his position in 'the hot seat' of Command Post 28.

EXERCISE CLOSE ENCOUNTER/CRESTED EAGLE 1988

Ex Close Encounter 88 (28 February-2 March 1988) was a NORTHAG/2ATAF Command Post Excercise (CPX), which preceded Ex Crested Eagle. This exercise itself was preceded by a limited communications 'warm-up' for all NORTHAG Signal Support Group Units.

Ex Crested Eagle 88 (3-9 March 1988) was an AFCENT wide CPX designed to test command and control procedures in the Cental region.

The Regiment actually deployed out into the field on 24 February and did not return to Barracks until 9 March 1988.

'STORMING OF THE GATES'

As in previous years the Karneval Prinz and Prinzessin, together with their guard, 'stormed the gates' of Francisca Barracks in the traditional manner at 1500 hrs on 12 February 1988.

The Karneval Prinz and Prinzessin are elected annually with their Ministers. They have a number of guards from a different districts of St Tonis, each dressed in different coloured uniforms. By virtue of their appointment, custom allows them to request entry to all establishments in Tonisvorst during Karneval.

Shown below is the Karneval Party 'storming the gates' with the Commander and Deputy Commander heading the resistance.

SPORTS

February saw the completion of two more Inter Troop Competitions, Rugby and Volleyball. Both were won by Oscar Tp of 2 Sqn. Next came the 'Jubilaumslauf' on 13 March when 27 members of the Regiment ran either 12km or 10km distances around Krefeld. More recently, all personnel have taken part in the .22 Shooting Competition and finally the Inter Troop Football.

NEWS FROM SUPPORT SQUADRON

The so called bad weather expected for the February/March exercise period failed to materialise. The Squadron deployed on Ex Close Encounter/Crested Eagle to FOD Dulmen in support of the Regiment. Despite Dulmen's high water table and torrential rain all tasks were carried out successfully. **Capt 'Geoff' Nelson**'s personal PR campaign (I want Catterick) was given a boost when he presented a Regimental plaque to the Commanding Officer of FOD Dulmen **Lt Col P. M. D. Coeshott RAOC.**

Capt G. T. Nelson presenting a regimental plaque to Lt Col Coeshott RAOC
From *Left to Right:* WO2 (SSM) Woodmason, Maj S. Craven RAOC, Maj M. Hincks and SSgt Lewington

MT TROOP

Despite 'New Boy' **Sig 'Pathfinder' Castaldi** losing the OC, **Maj 'Jack' Boyle** on exercise, the MT had a successful Annual Study Day, on return to camp, in preparation for TUV (NATO PRE). A theoretical exercise became reality when our accident record was increased by two on the same day. It appears 'If you want promotion' come to 28. Leaving us is **Cpl Andy Norris** as Sergeant and **Sig 'Geordie' Smee** and Lance Corporal. (It helps if you are an outstanding footballer).

What did the MTO do if he was not on exercise? Football! Cpl John Wayman receives the runners up shield after being beaten 3—1 by 28 Amph Engr Regt in the final of the BAOR Cup

FOCUS ON 1 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Alan Evans**
2IC	**Capt (Tfc) David Gilchrist**
OC A Tp	**Lt Debbie Wheatley Price**
OC B Tp	**2Lt David Chattaway**
SSM	**WO2 Les Jackson**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Chapman**
	SSgt Wally Bacon
FofS	**WO2 Tom Sharp**
	SSgt Terry Norman
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Stewart**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Mick Arnold**

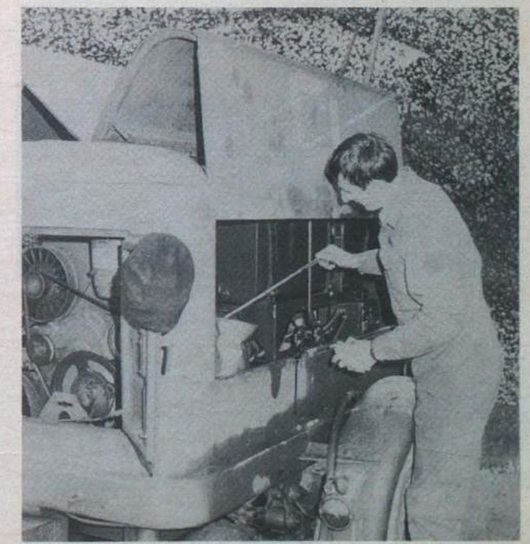
The New Year saw a change in roles once again, when Alpha Tp became Switch Alpha and Bravo Tp become Switch Bravo. These roles were reversed in 1986, to give each Troop experience of the other's responsibilities on exercise. Many people have already gained plenty of experience during the first part of 1988, with three exercises in eight weeks, culminating in our major staff exercise of the year 'Ex Crested Eagle'. It has been a successful start to the year for communications, which will see us through to the next stage in the calendar when we will go 'split-TARE', this is simply the deployment of our two mobile TAREs to each of our Switches, instead of being co-located at the Executive Switch, as they have been through the development phase.

On the social scene the Squadron continues with its popular bowling nights and the latest, on the night of 16 February again proved entertaining. The organiser on this occasion was **SSgt (FofS) Terry Norman** and there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that he was booked to play the lead pin on everyone's alley!

Competition is definitely becoming more fierce, standards are certainly improving and trophies were presented to the following on the night: Mens winner—**Sgt Steve Stackwood**; Runner-up—**WO2 (FofS) Tom Sharp**; Ladies winner—**Mrs Maggie Sharp** and Runner-up—**Mrs Elaine Jakins**.

Welcome to the following new arrivals: **Maj Alan Evans** and family from MOD, **LCpl 'Tich' Broughton** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Compo' Compton** from 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, **LCpl Dave Coleman** from 8 Sig Regt and **LCpl 'Sponce' Willson** from 30 Sig Regt.

We say thank you and farewell to: **LCpl 'Boogie' Bougourd** and **Sig 'Johno' Johnson** to civvy street, **Sig 'Gaz' Parkes** to 14 Sig Regt, **Cpl 'Frosty' Frost** to 9 Sig Regt and **Sig 'Ade' Downs** to AAC Harrogate.



They say gardeners talk to plants to obtain the best results, I wonder what Sgt Jim O'Connor is saying to our generators (Struven 1961 models)

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

EXERCISE CYGNET TREK 11

Cygnet Trek was the Regimental Battle Camp held at Fort Tregantle on the Devon and Cornwall Training Area over the period 6-18 March. The aim of the camp was to enable the CO to assess the Regiment's state of training in common military skills and finalise the annual Mandatory Tests.

Tregantle, completed in 1865, is one of a line of forts constructed for the defence of the fleet which protected the southern coast of Britain. Having endured many occupants over the years including Coastal Artillery, a Musketry Training Unit and the American Army during World War 2, the Fort, after recent refurbishments, was known during the camp as the Trusthouse Fort(e) of Military Training. Standing 360ft above sea level with ditches on the east, north and west sides, reverted scarps, counterscarps, flanked by caponiers the fort commands a very extensive and panoramic view.

Having arrived after lunch and been allocated accommodation the first elements of the unit were split into sections and paraded for a tour of the fort. As befitted a Battle Camp, the tour was carried out in the form of a squadded run with all and sundry being hounded around by the Gym Staff.

To complete day one they attended lectures on security, the Geneva Convention and the historical background of the areas fortifications. A final brief was given to Section Comds and everyone returned to prepare for the next days early start to a full programme.

Dawn—dressed as for CFT—under the leadership of the 2IC **Maj Peter McGann** and more hounding from the Muscle Busters, led by **Sgt Larry Tulett,** we started out on the CFT (pretty route) course. The route was specially selected to give panormaic views of the coastline, hills, rolling countryside, hills, picturesque villages and more hills! However having endured this circuitous route, some 8 miles later, Fort Tregantle came back into view (just up on the top of another hill). This set the pace for a hectic training programme conducted throughout the rest of the week. Each day began at 0615 hrs with either PT or BFT and the hills became better known if no less steeper to all. The sections then went through the following stands to assess the standard of training:

Sunny Tregantle on Sea!

FIRST AID

Following a verbal lesson ably and enthusiastically given by **Cpl 'Blood' Pope** the sections were presented with various battlefield casualties and assessed on their reaction to and treament of each. With the number of 'casualties' prepared over the period it was no wonder **Cpl Pope** was always to be seen with red hands.

NBC

Sgt Trev Keates devised a full training session which began with the normal IA drills followed by a short run in full NBC kit. (Just to warm you up and make the CS itch a bit he said). Then it was into the chamber and more drills. The highlight of one of these sessions was the Drinking Drill Procedures. OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Robin Ovenden** having decontaminated his hands, water bottle and mug poured himself a mug full of water, removed his respirator and quietly and confidently proceeded to quench his thirst from his mug. This gave rise from behind a respirator to the bewildered murmur 'I bet he drinks Carling Black Label'!

MAP READING

SSgt Dave 'Eddie the Eagle' Hughes found himself a perch high on the battlements overlooking the ranges, from where he conducted practical map reading. Unfortunately this position was also close to a Heli Pad used by the Navy for Deck Pan practice procedures. After numerous interruptions by helicopters (he swears the technicians were trying to feed them with their packed lunches) **Eddie** was heard to shout at one of these flying matelots 'Move Off'. Well that is what we think he shouted.

RANGES

As has already been stated everything you do at Tregantle involves moving uphill, the ranges are no exception, being sited on a slope from the fort down to the shore. Even though he cursed them often and colourfully, **WO2 (SSM) Ian MacKinnon** must have felt back at home in the Highlands. All of the range staff must have ended up fitter than the rest of us having had all the extra exercise up and down the ranges all day.

WATERMANSHIP

To give a somewhat brief respite from the rigours of the training, **SSgt 'Skipper' Oehme** assisted by **LCpl Ken Kendell** and **Sig 'Cox' Cox** gave us the chance to 'mess around in a boat'. The boats in question being Bosun Sailing Dinghys and Whalers.

MILITARY LAW

Having delivered numerous lectures on military law the Asst Adjt **2Lt Jane Lawrence** must have still been rather bemused with the apparent increase in the standard of discipline by the end of the second week. Instead of being saluted and called 'Sir' numerous times (we are not amused) the 'Sir' changed to 'Mum' (still not amused).

FIELDCRAFT

2Lt Dave Robson and **Lt Paul Graham** conducted the fieldcraft periods which culminated in a night attack on Scraesdon Fort. This fort is another of those built in the local defensive line with Tregantle and is used by the Royal Marines for cap badge training, however it now stands deserted. On a particular recce by one of the sections **Cpl 'I see no ships' Mainka** was heard to remark that the binos he had been given were useless and didn't work. However after being shown how to remove the lens caps all became clear to him. Having been busy on recces the team of **Capt Smith, Lt Graham** and **2Lt Robson** had somehow 'missed out' on their CFT. This did not escape the notice of the Training Officer **Capt 'H' Lund** who invited them to do the shorter version—3 miles in 33 mins. We will combine the CFT and BFT in one they said, if we do the second 1½ miles in under the BFT time, 'I bet you can't' retorted the Trg Offr. Off they set in full kit round those well known hills and to the disgust of **Capt Lund** won the bet, which was no mean accomplishment. However **Capt Lund** is going to recce a tougher route for next time as he says he can't afford to buy that many pints in one round.

At the end of each week of the camp, with some 15 sections and numerous DS having completed all the training, a competition was held to find the Best Section. This consisted of Assault Court, Obstacle Course (with log), Night Navigation and Section Battle Drill. Congratulations must go to **Cpl 'Rambo' Robinson** and **Cpl 'Doc' Halliday** whose sections won during respective weeks—well done.

Over the two weeks of the Battle Camp 1,135 tests were completed resulting in 1,097 passes with 38 failures. The success of the Battle Camp was possible due to the hard work of the Instructors and Admin Staff who not only carried out their own particular tasks but found time to participate in all the other activities. Compilation of all the results and statistics was a task taken on by the 2IC **Maj Peter McGann**. He was often seen with his head buried in his filo-Pampas entering results or checking on who was still to do what. Was it a trick of the light or was his hair turning even greyer.

We are all rather glad in a way to see the back of Fort Tregantle and its surrounding hills and be able to walk along fairly flat ground for a change.

STOP PRESS

The Trg Offr **Capt 'H' Lund** has managed to book the Regiment into Tregantle for the same two weeks next year, ensuring that the fitness of the officers and men are paramount for a Unit such as ours. Hi di hi campers!

HOCKEY—SWDIST LEAGUE AND CUP

Following last year's success story, hopes were high for victory in the District Cup. The first round was played at Tidworth against the Scots DG. The Scots weathered heavy pressure but still held out until extra time, **Capt Barry Keegan** broke the deadlock and then **Cpl Nick Kimber** added a second to see us safely through to play 1 Queens. Having recently returned fron NI the Queens found the Blandford grass difficult to play on and were soundly beaten 2—0. The semi final was played away against AAC Middle Wallop on a poor grass pitch. **Maj Robin Ovenden** was called upon to umpire at short notice as the nominated umpire failed to arrive. The Regiment dominated the game from the start but chances were missed in both halves, 30 seconds from the end Middle Wallop struck a goal against the run of play to end our Cup challenge.

In the League results have varied this season mainly due to exercise commitments, nine games are outstanding as the season comes to an end. The Regiment at present lies in fourth place.

SEASONS HONOURS

Army Seniors—Inter Service Winners
Cpl 'Sooty' Souter
Sig 'Boris' Roberts

Army U21—Inter Service Winners
WO2 (RQMS) Brian Mower
(Manager and Coach)
Sig Roberts
Sig Beaney

Corps Players

The following have played for the Corps during this season:-

Capt Barry Keegan
Capt Mark Butler
WO2 Brian Mower
SSgt Derick Payne
Sgt (now Mr) Andy Mahon
Sgt Brian Carlin
Sgt Sam Street
Cpl 'Sooty' Souter
Cpl Steve Swain (now 8 Sigt Regt)
Cpl Andy Mallone
Sig 'Boris' Roberts

SKIING

During bleak February, 30 Sig Regt found its manpower sadly depleted. After lengthy investigations by the Ops Offr it was discovered that the escape committee had organised a two week skiing extravaganza in the exclusive resort of the Lecht, Scotland.

Ex Snow Challenge allowed approximately 45 members of the Regiment to sample the delights of winter sports and cold weather training. We enjoyed perhaps the best weather and snow conditions of the season.

Several incidents on the piste are worthy of mention but special attention should be afforded to **LCpl 'Setch' Setchfield**. He amused the crowds by performing a rather complicated and brave manoeuvre by approaching a Grandmother, from behind, at some speed. However, he did leave her 'feeling 25 years younger'! Also the best, and most colourfull falls was claimed jointly by **Capt 'Show Off' Dakin** and **Sig 'Eddie the Eagle' Smith**, both putting in excellent mid-air performances.

The exercise was definitely a success, and was enjoyed by everyone who took part. Miraculously, nobody and nothing was broken beyond repair, despite the furious attempts by **Sgt 'Disaster' Wyatt**. Perhaps the only slight disappointment was the hired civilian transport which **LCpl 'Greg' Moore** and **Cpl 'Stan' Stanyer** broke near Carlisle. After an experience of three days I believe both of them are not fully confident in the AA Relay Service!

CROSS COUNTRY

Looking back over a successful season, it is nice to recall that in our first race, 150 competitors took part, and six of the Regimental team finished in the first 30; what a start to the season. How different nine races later when postings, exercise, injuries and lethargy had taken their toll of every team, including ours. Indeed of the nine who ran the first race only two survived the season to run the last.

The league season consisted of nine races. Each unit was required to field at least six runners in a minimum of eight races. At the end of the season we had been represented in eight events and in only three did we not manage a full team. Other units faired less well. However at the end of the season we managed a creditable fourth giving way to 1 D&D, 22 Engr Regt and School of Signals. For those who remember the beginning of the season, how difficult it was on those abominably hard courses and the appalling weather.

The mainstay of the team effort and the number of races they compete in are as follows: **LCpl Douglas** (6), **Cfn Bowe** (5), **SSgt Hunt** (4), ***Sgt Tulett*** (4), **LCpl Dickson** (4), **Cpl Campbell** (4), **WO2 Pape** (3), **LCpl Moore** (3), **LCpl Jackson** (3), **LCpl Beaumont** (3) and **Cpl Allen** (3).

Although finishing fourth in the SWDIST League, **Sgt Wilson, LCpl Douglas** and **Cfn Bowe** were able to go through to the Army Championships. Although none achieved a high placing it was nevertheless rewarding to see team members going through for the big event. In the league events **LCpl Douglas** finished first Junior, **Cfn Bowe** finished second Youth, and **SSgt Hunt** finished third Veteran. In finishing off the season Regimental Colours have been awarded to the following: **Sgt Tulett, LCpl Douglas** and **Cfn Bowe.**

FOOTBALL

At the time of going to press the Regiment is going through a very sticky patch, but all good teams suffer the bad times and look forward to once again returning to the winning trail. Our record in league fixtures this season so far is as follows: Played 9, Won 3, Drawn 1, Lost 5, Goals, For 17, Against 34.

Considering all our commitments, roulements, postings and injuries we have done well to produce a team and it can be said that we have made new friends every game. We are now preparing for next season and, hopefully with the help of a few new faces posted in **(Sig Maradona, LCpl Rudd Guillit)**, can return to our former glory.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our near neighbours from the School of Signals all the very best of luck in the Army Cup Final against 28 Amph Eng Regt on 13 April 1988.

BLANDFORD CAMP YOUTH CLUB

The Blandford Camp Youth Club opened on 25 March 1986. It occupies premises in the centre of the camp married quarters area and is open to all dependents between the ages of 7 and 16 years, of servicemen/servicewomen from units within Blandford Camp.

Current membership (March 1988) is 93, in addition to which, approximately 15 young people who attend boarding schools, use the club during school holidays.

Facilities in and around the club are: Table Tennis, Darts, Pool, TV Room, Volleyball, Rounders and Netball. Use is also made of all other camp sports facilities.

The Area Youth Service regularly task the club leader with the organisation of youth activities. During the past 12 months club members have achieved the following successes: Winners of the North Dorset Area under 14 5-a-side football competition; Winners of the North Dorset Area 14-16 year old 5-a-side football competition; Runners-up in the North Dorset Area girls 5-a-side football competition; Winners of the North Dorset Area Orienteering Championship; Winners of the North Dorset Area Trivia Quiz; Runners-up in a locally organised Assault Course competition; Took seven of the top 10 places in an Area Archery competition. In addition to which they have also entered darts and table tennis leagues, and an inter-club pool competition.

Blandford's claim to fame is the Annual Shillingstone to Blandford Raft Race down the River Stour. The course is over 10 miles and includes stretches where the raft must be carried. The club entered last years competition, however, the raft sank after about seven miles. Nevertheless the competitors thoroughly enjoyed themselves and raised £20 for local charities.

The Youth Club is a thriving concern, not only for the Regiment, but for Blandford Garrison. This is due solely to the efforts of our Pay Warrant Officer, **WO2 Colin Davies** and his wife **Pat,** unfortunately soon to be posted. We wish them well and thank them for their tireless efforts in raising and running a highly successful Youth Club.

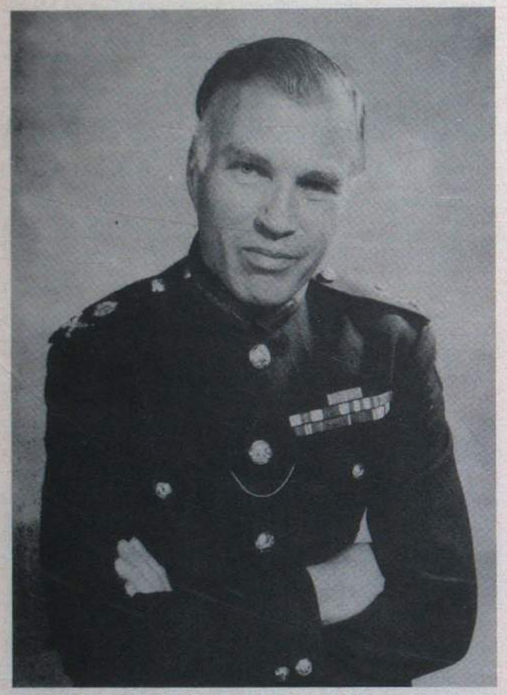
Senior Youth Club Darts Team
L-R: Andrea Green, Paul Annetts, Samantha Leonard and Robert Broughton

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

MAJOR GENERAL SIR ROY REDGRAVE KBE MC

As all other good things must come to an end, so has **General Sir Roy's** tour as our Honorary Colonel. No more shall we be regaled with tales of the Blues and Royals from a distinguished 'donkey-walloper' (as he is wont to call himself) and will the next officer/SNCO management weekends be the same without a hilarious presentation on the General's latest expedition to those parts of the world that other people try not to reach (eg Greenland and Tibet)?

General Sir Roy leaves us with affectionate memories of a distinguished soldier who demonstrated boundless enthusiasm and a sense of fun whenever he was with us and we shall always value his contribution to the regiment. We know that with his dynamic personality he will not need to look far for other pursuits to keep him busy and we look forward to hearing of further daring deeds in far-off places. We offer **General Sir Roy** and **Lady Redgrave** our very best wishes for the future and also our heartfelt thanks for their support, advice and help during the General's tour.



Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave

MAJOR GENERAL G. R. OEHLERS CB

With much pleasure we welcome our new Honorary Colonel who will be well known to many *Wire* readers.

General Oehlers has a distinguished record of service in the Corps being commissioned as a National Serviceman in 1958. He served in Cyprus, (where he was awarded the General Service Medal) Libya and Jordan, BAOR and UK. His regimental appointments included Adjutant 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt, Commander 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, and CO 7 Sig Regt. He was subsequently Project Manager for Wavell and Bates and then, on promotion to Brigadier, appointed Commander Corps Royal Signals, 1 BR Corps. In 1979 he was appointed a Director of Operational Requirements (Army) at MOD and in 1984, on promotion to Major General, appointed Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems). On leaving the service he became British Telecom's Director of Security and Investigation.

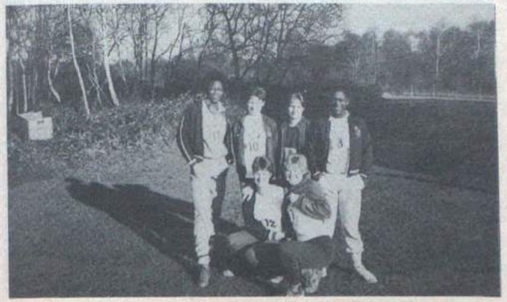
General Oehlers is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institute of Electronic and Radio Engineers and was appointed a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division) in the 1987 New Year Honours List.

We look forward with enthusiasm to a happy and successful tour with the Regiment and are proud that **General Oehlers** is returning to service in the Corps as head of our 'regimental family'. We are sure that the many BT employees on our strength can hardly wait to meet him!

Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers

LONDON DISTRICT TA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Teams from 83 and 41 Sqns did well in this year's meet at Pirbright in January coming second and third respectively. Individuals achievements deserving mention are **Lt Kendal Withers**—fourth overall, **Lt Sally Harrison**—fifth and **Pte Cheryl Dunnung** sixth. **Lt Kendal Withers** also qualified for a placing as an individual runner in the TA vs Regular Army Championships in Nottingham where she came 37th out of a field of approx 70 runners. Our girls in 31 seem to be the faster on foot than the men, interesting!



Back Row: Ptes Jackie Kingston, Cheryl Dunning, Helen Taylor (HQ Sqn) and Donna Dawson
Front Row: Lts Vicki Hutchinson and Kendal Withers (47 Sqn)

CADRE AND DETATCHMENT COMMANDER COURSES 1988

In early March Cadre and Detachment Commander Courses were held at Crowborough Camp in Sussex for 36 candidates of which 34 passed bringing our regimental total passes in these to approximately 90 in the last year. Best students were **Pte Alison Herriett** and **LCpl Nick Tuck** both of 41 Sqn. **WO (RSM) Barry Gibbons** presided and **SSgt Eddie Gallacher** showed that not all DTgs are quiet types by growling admirably at the students on the square. A very successful course showing that we are producing many good future middle managers in our midst.

Det Commander Course 1988
Best Student LCpl Nick Tuck—left end of back row

Cadre Course 1988
Best student Pte Alison Herriett—right end of front row

COURAGE TROPHY 1988

Four Regiment teams entered this demanding London District military skills competition and as usual Para, Marine and infantry units put in large numbers of almost-human fighting robots with amazing cross-country and assault course capabilities (some could even speak, albeit in subdued grunting tones).

We take great pride in placings of 17th (47 Sqn male team), 26th (41 Sqn male team), 30th (83 Sqn female team) and 33rd (HQ Sqn female team) out of 43 entries. Again our girls beat several male teams. Purple Heart 2nd class goes to **Pte Donna Dawson** (the wrist) and 1st class to **Lt Vicki Hutchinson** for requiring more bandages and slings for the thumb than found on a mummy.

EXERCISE CALM FENCE RECCE

Alors qui etes vous? Ah vous etes le 31 Sig Regt recce partie pour Ex Calm Fence. Vous is going to recce les sites que vous will be using en June dans le summer? Mais les is touts under le snow by 2m!

Having left Southfields TAC in bright sunlight and passed through the green, treeless county of Kent to Dover, it was a shock to find ourselves feet deep in snow. (The Ardennes; winter; snow—quelle surprise!) The recce became an exercise in landrover ice dancing and recovery (good job we took **Lt Fred Southey**, OC LAD) not to mention 'which large white lump is our vehicle' every morning.

The recce party, commanded by **Maj Roy Westerman**, Training Major, was billetted in three chalets high in the hills above Malmedy in the Ardennes. From the lounge of one chalet (G2/G3) **Maj Ian Chrystie**, Ops Officer, worked slavishly day and night (guess who's writing this) to deploy recce parties to sites in Belgium, Holland and Germany. Noteworthy among recce leaders was **Capt Penny Rose** whose unerring ability to trace patisseries/confiseries selling Leonides chocolates and frites was unsurpassed. This supported the high-powered technical team of **WO2 Foremen Graham Wood, Ray White** and **George Johnson** in their meetings with SHAPE personnel to define our interface problems. Non-technical problems (pay, PRI, duty free etc) were recced by our paymaster **Maj Joe Owen** (bottle of gin please **Joe**). Our departure was hastened by threats of even more snow and thanks to the efforts of MTWO **WO1 John Farrell** and **Cpl Danny Haydon** we were embarked on an earlier-than-booked sailing.

A good recce—the regiment will undoubtedly benefit from this groundwork. The CO also got his staff car back in one piece—the greatest achievement of all!

Capt Penny Rose: 'Is that Frenchman winking at me?'
Maj Joe Owen: 'Well I hope it's not at me!'

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The 'cold' winter months have not slowed down 61 Sqn. We have, as usual, indulged in much 'work, rest and play'.

WORK

Trade training goes ahead at a good pace, with more operators qualifying as RTg (HD). However, the other trades are not excluded and our mechanics, clerks, cooks etc are all becoming more expert in their own fields and, it seems, others. There is a pay clerk who isn't too bad on the radio ('though don't tell her, or she might get big headed). The exciting innovation of mobile Comms Tp has meant a slight rethink in the way some people do their job. It is something of a change for those more used to typing at a T100 terminal, now to find themselves rushing around the countryside in a landrover, camming up and eating compo rations all the time, oh, and communicating by voice over the radio, but they all seem to be coping well. However, they have not yet enjoyed the pleasure of an overnight exercise—but that will be happening soon. But don't think that we are strangers to bivvying. Ex Tough Luck was an escape and evasion exercise on Otterburn training area. Now, some people compain about the weather in Scotland, but on this rare trip 'down south', while there was beautiful weather in Edinburgh—it snowed in Otterburn! You could easily spot the participants in the exercise later that week by their runny noses and sore throats. Despite the weather, a great time was had by all. The escapees are convinced they 'won' as the enemy (the DS) did not catch all the escapees. The exercise has provided a good stock of 'war stories' which will no doubt be repeated for many years. There are too many to mention here but highlights must include:-

The three recruits who escaped capture, while five 'old hands' got caught, the lad who disabled the enemies landrover and then hid under a bridge, the four ladies who 'borrowed' the DS landrover, capturing the SSM at the same time (but let him go later).

The larger group who were supposed to recce enemy HQ, but decided to ambush it instead.

REST

The Squadron Officers' Mess is in its season of 'entertainments'. The Burns supper has now become an annual event. This year we managed to get a couple of pipers, from the Regimental Pipes and Drums, to provide the entertainment. The champagne supper was a time to meet old friends, many of whom can remember 61 Sig Regt. Retired members of the Officers' Mess are invited each year. If you know anyone entitled to attend please get in touch with the Squadron and tell us about them.

The Sergeants' Mess has entered the local army darts league for the past few years with success. This year they have had a good time 'throwing the arrows' and, no doubt, downing the pints. **Sgt John Rielly** won the trophy for this season with the highest checkout of 129!

The two messes do, sometimes, talk to each other and we will shortly join forces to dine out **Maj Jim McKee** (ex OC) and **SSgt Dave Cormack** (ex PSI).

PLAY

Play for the last few months has meant physical exercise. Orienteering is still popular with two of our numbers, **Sgt Norrie Anderson** and **LCpl Yvonne Hill**, winning local league 'badges'. We entered teams for the Scottish Army Orienteering Championships and now know the standard we have to aim for next year.

A few hardy souls entered the Carnethy five-hills race, a gruelling fell race held south of Edinburgh. While most of the Squadron manned the radios to provide safety communications for the race, a few runners could be seen sporting the Squadron's blue running vests—though 'running' might be a bit of a misnomer. Other members of the Squadron have 'enjoyed' skiing and football, we even have a gymnastic display team under training.

They say 'a Mars a day helps you work, rest and play', but by the time you read this most members of the Squadron would change this to 'a Bounty a year . . .'!

Finally congratulations to **SSgt Derek Morris** and **Sgt Fiona Morris**, who are now theproud parents of **Joanne**, who arrived in early March. Both mother and daughter are doing well and, the Squadron believes, **Joanne** will probably be able to understand morse before she can talk!

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

A collection of COs—Col Bill Illingworth, Col Mike Stewart, Col Graham Mitchell and Lt Col Mike Macklin

A lot has happened recently so here goes! The new CO **Lt Col Mike Macklin** is now well and truly in the chair and taking an active part in Regimental life.

We were delighted at the award of an MBE to **Maj Jim Smiles RAPC** and a BEM to **SSgt Ray Georgeson** in the New Year Honours List. **Maj Smiles** joined the Army in 1951 as a national serviceman and the TA in 1955. He has served with the Regiment in REME, Royal Signals and RAPC. **SSgt Georgeson** joined the Regiment in 1986 after 22 years regular service in Royal Signals and is now the NRPS SSgt with 90 Sig Sqn.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The following personalities have changed jobs: **Maj Philip Walker** to OC 90 Sqn, **Capt** (now Major) **Clare Pickles** to OC 49 Sqn, **WO2** (now WO1) **Graham Jennings** to SVWO.

We wish a warm welcome to **Rev Philip Rushton** the new Padre who comes to us from RAF Leeming and hope he enjoys the change from blue to khaki.

We say goodbye to **Capt Bruce Graham** and **Lt Sharon Matthews**. May they have many a peaceful Tuesday in future.

SCARBOROUGH—A TIME OF FAREWELLS

Comd 12 Sig Bde (V), **Brig Tom Wheawell**, visited the Regiment during military training at Scarborough and the opportunity was taken for all ranks to say farewell to him in the form of a Regimental parade. This was also the final parade of the SVWO, **WO1 Dave Sparks** after a total of 18 years serving with the Regiment both as a PSI and a Volunteer. His influence is not completely gone as his wife, **SSgt Carol Sparks**, remains as the TA Chief Clerk. A bronze statuette was presented to him on behalf of the junior ranks by **Cpl Mandy Lee** who, readers will remember, was seriously injured last year in a traffic accident.

OFFICERS PROMOTION EXAMS

Not only did several of the officers have to undergo the nail biting experience of the examination but the remainder had the privilege of re-enacting a polar trip to Cordilleras Farm. The Regiment was responsible for the administration of the examination so the QM **Capt Jim Allen**, and his staff, led by **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Courtenay** and **WO2 (RQMS) Colin Dadson**, spent Friday putting up tents in a blizzard; igloos seemed more appropriate. Mention must be made of the fatigue party who lived up to the phrase 'never was so much owed by so many to so few', **SSgts Robin Gilbey, Tommy Williamson, George Wright, Sgt Janet Green, Cpls Brian Irvine, Arthur Warner, LCpls Cliff Readshaw, Bob Bridges, Sig Wayne Ashenden, Tom Walker** and **Pte Catherine Bonner**. A surprise appearance by **Bet Lynch** (disguised as **Sgt Margaret Dadson**) raised the tone of the evenings; and if you meet the Messing Officer, **Capt Eric 'Grandad' Rose** ask him if he likes cheese.

Saturday dawned bright and clear, and to make the whole thing worthwhile, a gaggle of officers passed the examination. Congratulations to **Capts Allan Grindrod, John Lambton, Lts Danise Barker, Eric Harrison** and **Jonathan Tomlinson**.

The Winning Team
Front Row L to R: LCpl Dawn Widdrington, Ptes Jackie Flaherty and Jan Barr
Back Row L to R: Ptes Murray, Nicholson and 2Lt Sarah Meredith

TA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Northern area (NE, NW and Scotland Districts) cross country championships were held at Catterick on 12 December 1987. The championships were an eliminating stage in the Territorial Army championships.

34 Sig Regt (V) qualified for the National championships to be held at Chilwell Depot, by winning the area championships. Team and positions in the race were as follows:-

Lt Sarah Meredith	1st TA
Pte Jackie Flaherty	3rd TA
LCpl Dawn Widdrington	5th TA
Pte Lynne Murray	6th TA
Pte Jane Barr	8th TA
Pte Jackie Nicholson	11th TA

Although the team consisted of six runners it was the first four to count, so it can be seen that '34' won convincingly and looked forward to the challenge of competition at National level at Chilwell on 12 March.

We were not disappointed and although **Lt Sarah Meredith** was beaten into second place, all the team ran extremely well and '34' was again the winning team and became the national champions. Both **Lt Sarah Meredith** and **LCpl Dawn Widdrington** achieved WRAC TA colours for their fine running.

FOOTBALL

In January HQ/90 football team reached the final of the NE District Football Competition for the second successive year, to meet D Coy Yorkshire Volunteers again. After a goaless first half D Coy took the lead and looked set to win but a brilliant late equaliser by **Sig Gary Jowers** took the game into extra time. Although D Coy eventually won 6—1, the result was a great improvement on the previous year, and D Coy whose team included some semi professional players, suffered some minor heart attacks on its way to victory. HMS *Jupiter*, the adopted ship of Middlesbrough, paid a visit in February. Despite coinciding with a Regimental Exercise the traditional football match still took place and rumours vary from an honourable draw to resounding defeat!

CORPS GOODS

Goods which were sold at RHQ will now be sold from the Museum. Orders/enquiries should be addressed to:
Corps Enterprises, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH, or by Telephone (0258) 52581 Ext 2413

FOCUS ON 49(WR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Clare Pickles WRAC (V)**
PSAO	**Capt Gordon Bonner**
SSM	**WO2 Mally Wilson**
YofS	**WO2 'Taff' Watts**
PSI	**SSgt Bill Smith**
PSI Hull	**Sgt Tim Cowan**
NRPS	**SSgt Gordon Hardaker**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Buccilli**

The Squadron's recent achievements include a 'first' for the Regiment—the first WRAC Squadron Commander when **Maj Clare Pickles** took over command of the Squadron. Will the OCs husband, **Capt David Pickles**, (BK of 269 (OP) Bty) now do as he is told! With **Maj Philip Walker** taking over command of 90 Sqn and the simultaneous move of **WO1 Graham Jennings** to Middlesbrough as SVWO is there a takeover by ex members of 49?

YORKSHIRE TELEVISION 'INTOVIEW'

We were delighted when Yorkshire Television asked to make a short film of a Squadron training night for inclusion in a new youth orientated magazine programme transmitted at 1830 hrs on Friday nights. The afternoon and evening of 26 January were spent filming and the excellent edited (five minute) item was screened in March. Our thanks to YTV and to **2Lt Wendy Yeoman**, who works for YTV, for arranging it.

Members of 49 Sqn with the YTV film crew

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to offer our congratulations to the following members/ex members of our Squadron, to **Wendy Yeoman** on her commissioning, my! she was a good data-telegraphist, to our other Yeoman **'Taff' Watts** on his promotion to WO2. **Sgt George Berry** on gaining the second bar to his TA efficiency medal. (He is the only soldier in the Squadron whose Army number is in Roman numerals)!

Congratulations also go to **WO1 Graham Jennings** who has taken over the role of SVWO on the retirement of **WO1 Dave Sparks** and to **WO2 'Mally' Wilson** who has taken over as SSM and to **SSgt Buccilli**, the new SQMS. Further promotions within the Squadron were achieved by **Capt Allan Grindrod, SSgts Gary Shaw, Dave Gath, Sgts Bill Jackson** and **Steve Firth.**

ARRIVALS—DEPARTURES

We continue to have a steady stream of potential tradesmen and women and long may it continue.

We are sorry to say farewell to three of the Squadron officers, **Capt Steve Robson** who has been attracted South to join a firm of bankers in London. Sadly too, **Capt Bruce Graham** left the Squadron in February after 33 years in the Regular Army and TA and exchanged puttees for putting and tees.

Farewell also to **Lt David Perkins** who has changed his job. After many years with the Squadron **Sgts Ronnie Howell, Gayner Vance, Jim McCormick** and **Maggie Bottom** have all retired. **LCpl Janet Hardy** has also left to start a family. We wish them well and thank them for their time and effort on the Squadron's behalf.

STOP PRESS

What do you think of an OC who gets a job as an Assistant Purser and goes off to the Caribbean on a cruise?

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

21st BIRTHDAY FREEDOM PARADE—BIRMINGHAM

Our article would not be complete without an account of the Regiment's Freedom Parade on 26 March 1988. This event was held in the Centre of Birmingham and was to mark the Regiment's 21st Birthday. The Parade followed an Officers Mess Ball at Drayton Manor Park the previous evening. Officers were heard to state that hangovers helped them march!

The day of the Parade dawned bright and sunny and the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen John Badcock CB MBE DL** reviewed 35 (South Midlands) Sig Regt (V) on Parade in front of the Council House, Birmingham. The Master presented the BEM to **Sgt Geoff Robinson RAPC** and Territorial Army Efficiency Medals to several members of the Regiment. The Parade was followed by a march in Birmingham led by the Band of the Corps Band.

Distinguished guests included the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, the GOC Western District, the Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Lords Lieutenant from the Counties in which the Regiment's soldiers serve. Other guests included Ex Commanding Officers and Honorary Colonels of the Regiment from the 21 years since its formation.

The Parade which included a Motorcade of some of the Regiments vehicles was followed by a Reception in the Council House where the Honorary Colonel, **Col M. P. K. Beatty TD ADC DL** thanked the City for the Freedom and the Lord Mayor replied on behalf of the City of Birmingham.

The day proved to be most memorable and thoroughly compensated for all the wailing and gnashing of teeth which preceeded it by the organiser, **Maj Paul Renecle** who was most relieved that he did not have to march on the day; being Ops Officer does let you off some hooks! The Quartermaster **Capt (QM) Andy Boyle** became adept at producing extra chairs from his cuffs for extra 'guests' and the Adjutant **Capt Suzy Reed** is most relieved that she has only one more parade to do before posting (did I hear—'It's not fair')?

Future Commanding Officers will be relieved to hear that such Military Extravaganzas are unusual but well worth while at the end of the day.

89 (Warwickshire) Sig Sqn (V) Marches Past the dais outside the Council House where the Master of Signals and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham took the salute

Lord Aylesford Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands with some of the Regiment's Officers *L to R:* Maj Bob Haysom, Lt Glen Morrison, Maj David Hardy, Maj Ted Noon, Maj Brian Foxon, Capt George Cairns, Capt Chris Fidler, Capt Bob Bannigan and Maj Derek McConnell

Some of the Distinguished Guests, *L to R:* GOC Western District Maj Gen R. Ward, Master of Signals Maj Gen J. Badcock, The Lord Mayor of Birmingham Councillor Fred Grattidge, The Hon Col, Col M. P. K. Beatty, the SOinC Maj Gen P. D. Alexander and the CO Lt Col D. W. Dobson

FOCUS ON 58 (STAFFORDSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

Cold! . . . you don't know what cold is . . . Exercise nicknames have a lot to answer for. Ex Frostbite started with a detachment up on Hanchurch (Yawn! Yawn!) Hills shooting into the Regimental 'playtime' system and back to Swynnerton which was 'Activities Ville' Arizona—Why TA bods leave to join the Regulars is beyond us, but when they then come back off leave and join in on a TA Ex W/E it is simply beyond belief . . . but **Pte 'Moa' Mackleston** did just that! Ever flexible we also had Troop 13 from the Regimental Recruits Course to do their BSS—**Sgt 'Gofur' Gough** cracked all his best jokes on the mast erection stand and **LCpls Mick Bagguley** and Allen did their best to electrocute a few recruits on the power stand. But possibly the pièce de résistance came from **SQMS 'Skip' Whalley,** an 'ever ready' mechanic he managed not only to get the vehicle working but also conducted an electronic interpretation of Beethoven's last. The strangest sight of all was . . . a PSO in combat jacket? **Capt Roger Breese** came down to watch the OC choke in the gas chamber but somehow managed to sidle off to the Ranges before his turn.

Anyway a good time was had by all and special thanks for the guest appearance of blues singer **FofS 'Zipperdeedoodar' Kirk.** Still in the deep thaw theme . . . Ex Cold Feet was slap bang in the middle of the blizzards. Most Squadrons were scuppered, so the exercise was cancelled, but true to spirit 58 managed to haul itself out to Hanchurch Hills and talk to 95 Sqn at Shrewsbury! Meanwhile, back at the TAC . . . **Sgt Karen Ingle** said 'it's jolly cold out there'! as she led a troopette of Rudolf's into the drill hall. **Sgt Pete Myatt** put on one of his fine curried soups and soon everyone defrosted except maybe the vegetarian. Undaunted the kitchen soon whipped up a compo mash and cheese pie much to **Pte Jane England**'s amazement. The Squadron was happy at work and even happier at play, a little square eyed maybe after the third instructional video, but nevertheless happy. No sooner had we shaken the snow from our boots than it was the annual CPX Ex Dry Run and Msg Handling Ex Paper Chase. So, on the 6 February the officers were despatched (thankfully one of them knew where to go)! and the DTg literally fell out of bed as most were on a trade course anyway. Everyone can sleep safely in their beds because the orange forces won or was it the blue forces? . . . RCP really must stock up on chinagraphs; it's most confusing to the colourblind watchkeepers.

Anyway . . . someone . . . somewhere . . . won . . . we think!

To round off the month the Squadron held an NBC orientated Communication Exercise—Ex Gold Spot which turned out to be a bleak, blowy weekend up on Leek moors . . . at least there was a mermaid or should that be 'The Mermaid' to help administer life giving fluids. Everyone felt they'd learnt something and asked for another exercise in the same vein, but how many ways can you stretch an elastic band?

CONGRATULATIONS

LCpls 'Clean' Johnson and **Rob Shone** on passing their HGV. B2 DTg **Pte 'Nono' Evans, Pte Margaret Pennington** and **LCpl 'Lottie' Loton.** B2 Cbt Lmn **Sig Carl Lewis, Steven Watson** and **'Wink' Watson.** PSI **'Mal' Metcalfe**—are you on the board or off the board? Whatever—you're on the way to being **Mr Metcalfe.**

BEST WISHES

For a speedy recovery after her recent operation to **Lt Annette Holland.**

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO

Pte Kirk, Sig Owen, Haysom (a good name in this Squadron)! **Sig Johnson, Polles** and **Eardley** on passing their Recruits Course.

EXERCISE WHITE CAP 3

Ex White Cap was a Regimental Ski Exercise held in Aviemore from the 7-13 March 1988. In fact the Permanent staff is firmly convinced that this exercise will be renamed Ex Mad Cap for next year! it was capably organised by **SSgt Rod Shelton-Smith** with able administrative support from **SSgt Bob Heaselgrave** who only managed one days skiing as he spent the rest of the week on washing up! The food was excellent which is hardly surprising with four cooks, **LCpl Martin Jones, Cpls Kay** and **Linda Yeubrey** and **LCpl Karen Neale. Cpl Barry Stocks** and **LCpl Eileen Monaghan** were there to run the bar so the stomachs of the Regimental Skiers were well looked after! Provided nobody got injured on the slopes; take a bow **Cpl Linda Yeubrey**!

Most people skied on all the days except for one day when we went to Inverness and tried to capture 'Nessie' as the Regimental Mascot; unfortunately that ended in failure. This disappointment was easily forgotten when we visited the Red McGregor and sampled real Scottish Whisky!

The skiing was good and although the high winds and driving snow put a few beginners off **Capt Suzy Reed** and **Lt Steve Pell** managed to produce one or two proficient snow plough skiers by the end of the week! This article would not be complete without a mention of **LCpl Martin Jones** and **LCpl Mark Henry** who managed to take out complete 'T' bar queues and orderly ski groups at regular intervals!

Next year looks hopeful and the aim is to enter the UKLF Team Championships with some of the more kamikaze personnel of the Regiment's skiers and to follow this with Ex White Cap 4. It was a long way from Birmingham to Aviemore but it was certainly worth the journey.

Cpl Linda Yeubrey and LCpl Jane Heaselgrave enjoying the Apres Ski on Ex White Cap 3

Sgt David Bentley and Cpl 'Scarface' Hardy manning the Officers Mess Bar on St Valentines Day

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

HQ IN ACTION ON THE PISTE—TIGNES 1988
Report by Cpl Bremner and Pte Rashid

Well! What can I say, and where can one begin telling you all about our momentous holiday on the Piste. A great time was had by all.

On Saturday having made our grand arrival we found our accommodation still occupied by school children, but all was soon sorted out. Everyone was eager to begin skiing on Sunday morning. The 'Wacky Races'/Skiing started and dangerous isn't the word to describe it. There were bodies everywhere and this was how it carried on with a few people becoming celebrities in their own right, like **Capt 'I can't stop' Armstrong,** who thought, for some obscure reason, that crashing into people was the best way to stop, and get to know them. Then there was **Pte 'I can't stop talking' Rashid,** who acted as a good fog horn.

Contributions were made by everyone, day to day on the Piste. We all had our fair share of falls, accidents, laughs and jokes; of course mentioning no names at all, except I must drop a few people in it. Yes you, again, **Carol Armstrong, Kim Scroxton, Dave Lock, Gerald Stone** and I must include the most accident prone people on the Piste, the one to avoid at all costs, it's got to be myself and **Carl,** and course, because when I fell he just had to go down too.

The week went too quickly for most of us, the last day being the most dangerous, with people crashing into each other left, right and centre ending up a few hundred francs lighter for the trip to hospital.

The evening entertainment was pretty good with 'The Party Scene' thanks to **Sgt Dave Lock** and **WO2 Q 'It was me who made the food' Hooton.** As per usual when the party games were in full swing you soon found out who the new recruits were, who just accidentially on purpose got caught for everything. We certainly left our mark in Tignes. It will definitely be the 'In' holiday next season. 18-30's 'Eat your heart out'.

All that is left to say is roll on next year, and a thank you for the man who organised this year's Tignes 88 who just happens to be **WO1 (RSM) Tom 'I'm not really a poser' Taylor.**

The Kamikaze Krew from Tignes '88

MT MATTERS

MTWO	**WO1 Mick Moffatt**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Martin Hull (TA)**
CO's Driver	**LCpl 'Woolly' Woolsey**
	LCpl Louise Walker (TA)
	Pte Karen Nesbitt (TA)
	Sig 'Skid' Skedd (TA)
Civilian Driver	**Mr Tony 'Kosher' Jordan**

Well we have had a big change around in this department first with personel, and now with equipment. The BAOR exercise with all the headaches that it brought is well behind us. The MTWO needed two 4 ton vehicles to move the paperwork required to move a Regiment from the UK to BAOR!

As all you fellow MTWO's know, life is never dull in our environment and a sense of humour is a pre-requisite for the job, the grey hairs come naturally.

We recently brought up to specification a series of generators that had been sadly neglected.

WO2 (RQMS) Alan Gibbons re-learnt what a paint brush is for, he is seen in the photo giving it great licks. He and **WO1 Mick Moffatt** agreed that Records don't tell you this when they post you to the TA.

One recent change in the Troop is the departure of **LCpl 'Johno' Johnson** to civilian life and the arrival of **LCpl 'Woolly' Woolsey**. We say farewell to **Johno** and welcome to **LCpl Woolsey**, we are sure you will enjoy life with the TA.

Well the year ahead of us will be busy as we hve re-structured the Troop and are endeavouring to up grade our HGV drivers to class two.

Welcome to the Territorial Army RQMS

Mr Bill Law doubting its lift capabilities. *Centre:* WO2 (RQMS) Gibbons, *Left:* Mr Tony Jordan

Mr Tony Jordan wondering why the trailer never fills up with water!

SERGEANTS' MESS

The Sergeants' Mess held a dinner on 19 March to dine out the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col C. Gale TD** at Colchester in the Sergeants' Mess of HQ 19 Bde.

An excellent meal was served and **Col Gale** said that it was one of the most enjoyable evenings that he had attended for some time. Afterwards a presentation was made to him of two Waterford Crystal Decanters.

Later in the evening **Col Gale** was asked to change into a nautical jacket. We then proceeded to bundle him into a rather large motor launch mounted on a trailer outside the Mess. Mess Members then pulled the trailer with the CO and the RSM and SVWO on board out of the Barracks; the CO taking up the correct position and stance, this must come from experience from his civilian employment as a marine engineer. The SVWO was looking pale at the end of the short journey but the CO and the RSM were in good form.

Lt Col Chris Gale TD joined the TA with 23(SAS) Regt (TA) in 1961, he was commissioned at the OTC at Cambridge in 1964. He then transfered to 54 East Anglian Regt (V) and has subsequently served as Troop and Squadron Commander in 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V).

He transferred to HQ Eastern District and returned to the Regiment in 1981. He took command in December 1985 and was with the Regiment through its most difficult period for years with new equipment like Triffid and Euromux slowly being introduced during his term as Commanding Officer. **Col Gale** hands over in June of this year.

We should like to thank the Commanding Officer of HQ 19 Inf Bde, the PMC, Sergeants' Mess, Mess staff and our own staff, **Cpl Wong WRAC**, major domo for their contribution to a successful evening.

The RSM presented Lt Col Chris Gale TD with two Crystal Decanters on behalf of the Mess

Hold tight Colonel! Note the correct stance, though we are not sure if that is a UFO or a Halo on his head

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

REGIMENTAL TRADE TRAINING WEEKEND

March sees the biannual movement of the Regiment to STC Scarborough. The system is tuned to a fine pitch with the trade training masterminded by **Maj David Podevin** (Training Major) ably assisted by the computerised **Capt Dennis Trayers** and our Yeoman, **Gus Colville**. The instruction was of a high standard and 619 module passes were recorded. The Young Officers were tasked with a forced march from Ravenscar to Scarborough, and despite the criticism levelled at **2Lt Vanda Leary** for complaining that young officer training was just not physical enough! they enjoyed the exercise and came in in fine fettle. The Regiment was visited by **Col Frances Hutley**, Commander WRAC UKLF, **Lt Col Chris Marriott** then Commander WRAC NE/NW Districts, **Lt Col (Retd) Fred Orr** G3 Trg Catterick. **Lt Col Colin Cunningham** from 2 Brigade spent the full weekend with us and made most valuable contributions to our training programme. All our visitors together with our Honorary Colonel, **Col Alan Hawksworth** joined the officers for their Regimental Dinner—and for the second time in as many visits to Scarborough the power supply failed at a crucial time—however the officers are well used to dressing in the dark and the occasional bow tie at an odd angle was sympathetically viewed. As always **WO2 (RQMS) Pat Connors** and **WO2 (RQMS) Joe Hodgson** and their teams provided an excellent evening. **Capt Hornsby**, our Adjutant for the last two years, was dined out and we wish him and **Shirley** all the very best when he eventually moves on to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in April. **Col Alan Hawksworth** took the parade on the Sunday morning following the **Rev (Maj) Mike Hiles** address which was a truly fitting farewell since he is due to retire before our next visit to Scarborough.

HQ SQUADRON

Headquarters Squadron has had a particularly busy month. The first weekend was spent servicing the Regiment at the Trade Training Weekend at Scarborough (where one of the Squadron's two husband-and-wife teams are seen pausing for the photographer. **Cpl Patricia Pinches** of the Pay Staff is far better looking than her SQMS husband, **SSgt Barry Pinches**, who was acting sergeant major that weekend). **SSM Dave Warburton** was away spending a short time with his civilian employers in between his busy TA commitments as SSM and leader of the Regiment's Nijmegen Team.

The following weekend, the Squadron was at Beckingham concentrating on general military training and range work. The Squadron' 2IC, **Capt Colin Slaughter** ran this weekend because the OC, **Maj Frank Kirkham**, as a member of the South Yorkshire ABF Committee, was promoting the efforts towards Sheffield's Flag Day which raised £571.56 for the Army Benevolent Fund. **LCpl Andy Medley**, was kept particularly busy changing full collecting boxes for empty ones. Meanwhile, PMC **Maj Ron Toft** and mess Steward **RQMS Jod Hodgson** have been preparing for the Sheffield Officers' Café Royale Night.

'The Pinches' at Scarborough. Cpl Patricia Pinches poses with husband SSgt Barry Pinches, both of HQ Sqn

CO, Lt Col Steve Coltman congratulates Sgt Dave Baker (46 Sqn) following the presentation of the Efficiency Decoration

46 SQUADRON
'BRING A FRIEND EVENING'

To boost the recruiting campaign Derby and Leicester held a 'bring a friend' evening on Tuesday, 23 February at their respective drill halls. A total of 46 people visited the Squadron and saw various demonstrations of military and communication equipment on display. The public were able to meet the soldiers during the evening and later in the Junior Ranks Bar where buffets were held at each location.

Sgt Tim Batchelor and Cpl Ken Gilbank ready and waiting for 'a Friend' on 'Bring a Friend' evening

Missed the parade again! Maj David Etherton (OC 46 Sqn preparing for the 3 legged race!

64 SQUADRON

The Squadron had a very successful weekend on NE District's Ex Distant Moor. We had a very good HF net using VRC 321 and PRC 320, even though Staff claimed the remotes were 'too noisy' when not using it! The OC's driver—**LCpl Ken Wilson** who knows the unreliability of Metro fuel gauges, let it be said that the OC, **Maj David Wing** is now the proud owner of an AA Membership card!

(MTWO please note—AA will Relay a Metro to a Shell Station). The Regular Staff of RHQ were seen at times, but especially **LCpl Steve Pashley** who provided essential expertise at one of the TAOR's when illness hit key personnel.

ORIENTEERING

46 Squadron entered a WRAC and men's team for Eastern District's Orienteering Competition held on 13 March. **Capt Helen Burrows** led the WRAC team of **2Lt Jane Heywood** and **Pte Helen Davies**. The mens team, led by OC 46 Sqn **Maj David Etherton** was recruited entirely from the Leicester detachment and consisted of **LCpl Richard Millett, Sig Mike Ball** and **LCpl Graham Perkin**.

FAREWELL

Sadly we have to say farewell to **LCpl Sheila Aubrey**, but for the best possible reasons. We congratulate her and her husband, our PSI Technician, on their forthcoming arrival.

LEICESTER

Leicester detachment has recently welcomed **SSgt Bob Warden** back into the fold. Another recent arrival on promotion is **Sgt Peter Turner**. Other recent promotions: **Sgt Pam Johnson WRAC** Leicester Detachment, **Sgt Jane Atherly** Derby Detachment, **LCpl Graham Perkin** Leicester Detachment.

93 SQUADRON

Cpl Geoff Small (879 Sig Tp) has been training in Full Contact Kick Boxing for the past four years. In March 1987 his training was rewarded by winning the British Kick Boxing Union Middleweight Title and he successfully defended the title twice, in September and October 1987. **Geoff** trains with the Goshin Kempo Jujitsu Association in Blackburn. The Club trains four days a week but due to TA commitments he only trains Wednesday and Thursday nights. The rest of his training is running for the building up of his stamina. **Geoff** has many ardent supporters in the Squadron who follow him around the country—the Squadron Commander has asked him to try and arrange his title fights only on inviolate weekends for obvious reasons!

Congratulations to **Capt Alan Whittle** and his wife **Pamela** who were married on 27 February—officers from the Squadron provided the guard of honour and an excellent reception was had by all in the Officers Mess at the TAC.

50 years with the Defence Forces, 15 as Clerical Officer with 93 Squadron. **Bob Waring** left school at 14 years of age and joined the Merchant Navy serving on Merchant ships all over the world. Early in World War 2, on reaching 18 years of age, he joined the Army in the Royal Ulster Rifles. He saw active service in North Africa and Italy. During the heavy fighting in Italy he was unfortunately captured and spent his last two years of the war in prison camps in Italy and Germany.

Released at the end of the war he was returned to the UK and was posted to the North West where he spent his final period of Regular service with various units in the area—not least of which was a period at APO Ashton looking after officers and soldiers pay.

On his final release from the Army **Mr Waring** found employment with the newly formed Territorial Army on the civilian permanent staff and of course joined the TA. He was posted to the Royal Engineers TA. Rising to the Rank of Staff Sergeant he was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate and the TA Efficiency Medal.

In his permanent staff post **Mr Waring** served several units including the old 4 Bn East Lancashire Regt here in the Barracks. He also served in Preston, Padiham, Haslingdon and Manchester.'

In 1973 **Mr Waring** took over the post of Clerical Officer with 93 Sqn. He finally retired on 11 March having given 50 years of service to the Crown.

British Kick Boxing Middle Weight Champion. Cpl Geoff Small (93 Sqn) triumphs again

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1 Inf Bde HQ and (215) Sig Sqn Tidworth

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. K. Ewbank**
2IC	**Capt R. F. M. Cousins**
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 M. S. Castle-Smith**
OC B Tp	**Lt I. Hooper**
OC C Tp	**Capt B. P. Avison**
2IC C Tp	**2Lt S. S. M. Youngson**
TCO	**Capt K. E. Meakin RCT**
RSM	**WO1 RSM G. C. Air**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) D. C. A. Ellis**
YofS(1)	**WO2 (YofS) C. Newby**
YofS(2)	**SSgt (YofS) W. J. Stack**
QMSI	**WO2 (QMSI) G. R. Bryson**
Ch Clk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) D. C. Flynn**

A few changes to the 1988 Squadron line up. **Capt Mark Castle-Smith** takes over as the new OC A Tp, while **2Lt Scott Youngson** arrived from Sandhurst to become the 2IC C Tp. **Scott**'s introduction to the Squadron was eventful to say the least. After his 'arrest' and subsequent 'interview' by the local RMP, he was unceremoniously introduced to the unit guardroom. After a suitable period of dentention, it was left to the 'new OC Sqn', **Cpl Pete Latham** and **'Brigadier' Cpl Mac Mackenzie**, to dispense justice. Over to you C Troop.

We say farewell to **WO1 (FofS) John Philips** and welcome to the new 'man at the helm' **WO1 (FofS) David Ellis**. Training Wing is also under new management in the form of **SSgt (YofS) Bill Stack.**

RECENT EVENTS

A busy period started with Ex Black Swan, a Squadron level exercise based in the Cinque Ports Training Area. Comms seemed to pose few problems, other hazards being the order of the day. Cinque (present tense 'sink') proved to be the operative word, with the LAD continually battling to keep the Squadron above ground level. Meanwhile, the new TCO (SO3 Gaskets and Oil Changes) **Capt Keith Meakin RCT** got to grips with convoy discipline, producing the longest Squadron PXR to date.

Ex Norfolk Knight was to have been a Brigade CPX, but as the weather threatened rain the Staff quickly changed their minds and we found ourselves deployed to Stanford without the benefit of their company. The new hyphenated OC A Troop—**Capt Mark 'Grid-Reference' Castle-Smith**—set the exercise off on a good footing. He and **SSgt John Hall** seemed pleased with their location and awaited the arrival of a A Troop and main HQ. Pleased that is until OC **Maj J. Ewbank** mentioned that being a conventional Squadron we generally deployed to our initial location first. An impromptu A Troop conference then took place followed by an interesting figure of eight convoy move, with **WO1 (RSM) Gordon Air** frantically redirecting the following packets. **Cpl Paddy Flannigan** then decided to complicate matters by joining the now infamous I Tonne Fan Club formed by **Cpl Tam Bennie** of C Troop. Further events included an eight hour wait for the engineers to complete the bridge, a mysterious phone call to OC B Troop and C Troop suffering the indignity of being overtaken by a hearse on the return trip.

EXERCISE DOWNFALL '88

Ex Downfall 88 was a Squadron adventurous training exercise based in the Highlands of Scotland. 40 members of the Squadron travelled North for six days of downhill and cross country skiing. Initial problems with the weather, high winds closing roads and slopes alike, caused day one to be devoted entirely to apres-ski. However, the slopes soon reopened and with enthusiasm if not skill we sampled the delights of Cairngorm. Certain individuals emerged as instant stars, **LCpl Tony 'The Eagle' Taylor** practiced his Alpine ski team in two turn skiing, one turn to try to get into the fall line and one to stop. As the beginners were beasted into shape by **LCpls 'Stretch' Wilson, Ray Lippe** and **Steve Franklin**, the advanced group under **Cpl Bob 'The Dob' Dillet** and **Mr Peter Wheeler** vied with each other for the 'Dob of the Day' helmet.

Competition was strong. **WO2 Yeoman 'The Snowman' Newby**, was advised that he would make better progress if he waxed his woollen hat and **Capt Mark Castle-Smith** tried to rearrange the Lecht Ski slopes by taking out the ski lift. **Sig 'Scouse' Clarke** provided the most spectacular incident actually knocking himself out, but it was fitting that the 'Dob of the Week' award should go to **Lt 'Jocaster' Hooper** the exercise organiser. Despite less than perfect conditions the exercise was an undoubted success, a most enjoyable and beneficial week being had by all. Special thanks go to **Sgt Jim Lynch** and **LCpl 'Stretch' Wilson** for their work in the organisation and administration of the exercise.

THE THREE PEAKS

Those who rise early in the morning may have noticed a small band of runners training a little harder than usual. Why? Because they plan to run 450 miles and ascend more than 11,000ft on Britain's three highest peaks to raise money for a handicapped child. Fifteen members of the Squadron aim to run up Ben Nevis (4,400ft), Scafell (3,200ft) and Snowdon (3,500ft), the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales respectively, during the week 23-27 May.

The team is comprised entirely of Corps soldiers, but medical cover is being provided by 16 Fd Amb which is based at Bulford and is also part of the United Kingdom Mobile Force.

The run, named Ex Three Peaks was originally conceived as an adventurous training exercise, but during the initial planning stage it was suggested that it should be linked to a charitable fund-raising cause. The cause was easily chosen as **Capt Keith Meakin**, our TCO, was already involved with raising money for six year old Ben Manners of Calverton, Nottingham, who suffers from cerebral palsy. The specific diagnosis and treatment of this crippling disease is not readily available on the National Health and is very expensive, and so the

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SCHOLARSHIPS 1988

Academic, Music and Sixth Form Scholarships for Day Girls and Boarders, worth up to two-thirds of the fees, are open to competition in January 1988.

For details write to The Headmaster

team, led by **Capt Ray Papworth**, intends to raise as much money as possible to help his parents.

The 15 strong team has been training since January under the watchful eye of **SSgt Geoff Graham**. They have already made a trial attempt on Snowdon which they completed in 1hr 45min, a time they hope to improve on. The aim now is to recruit sponsors for the team and **Capt Ray Papworth** would be delighted to hear from potential sponsors.

ARU

On return from Easter block leave the Squadron was pitched back into military life with the ARU. The day started with a full Squadron deployment, under the watchful eye of the RMP, on to Salisbury Plain. There then followed a series of 'military skills' stands in the Warminister and Westdown areas, to be tackled by the individual troops.

A four mile tab and assault course led to the range, where those who hadn't lost their skin on the rope slide and those who weren't trying to see the target down the sights of a pistol managed to amass some impressive scores. Then on to the NBC and First Aid stands where the main problem was deciding who should be allowed the honour of extinguishing the fire in the back of the four tonne. After a long hard day the unit returned to Tidworth having acquitted itself well.

Bravo Troop arrives at the First Aid Stand on the ARU

C Troop tackles the Assault Course

Sig 'Billy Sumo' Barnes swings the gap as Brig Thompson looks on

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

ALPHA TROOP

Tp OC	**Capt Colin McGrory**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt John Cakebread**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Nidge Barnett**
	Sgt Geordie Harvey (New Boy)

EXERCISE ALPHA SHUTTLE

Alpha Shuttle from 8-12 February was the name given to our own low-level exercise where the two main groups 'Oscar and Papa' could practise their own SOPs and meet the unexpected. The area chosen for the exercise was the inevitable 'Salisbury Plain'. Needless to say, movement, low level tactics, the inevitable 'Tab' and, of course, communications were practised.

POSTINGS OUT

We say goodbye to the following people: **Cpl Taff 'Pathfinder' Rowlands** to 614 TACP (which happens to be 10 m away from us), all the best boyo. **LCpl 'Jolly' John Walker** to 613 TACP, get the claims in JJ, and, last but not least, to **Sgt Dave Catchpole**, who is going on a 12 month tour with 2 Para.

POSTINGS IN

We welcome **Sgt 'Geordie' Harvey** into the Troop after a year's stint with 1 Para.

PROMOTIONS

Well deserved promotions go to: **Cpls 'Dougie' 'Ex 15 Para' Craig, Graham Rowlands** and **'Chris' Quinn**.

COURSES

The following members of the Troop have been away on various courses: **LCpls 'Buck' Rogers, Karl Weaver** and **'Chris' Brown** who all successfully completed the RSDCC.

Cpl 'Gas' Lee on completion of the Regimental First Aid Course. **LCpl Chris Quinn** on a 'B' pass on his upgrading course. **Cpl Chris McGinley** is on a Drill Course at Pirbright.

DETACHMENTS

Cpl 'Trapper John' Bernstein is on his six month attachment to the Commcen at District HQ. How are the Barrack Dress, shoes and handbag, **Bernie**?

P COMPANY

We give well deserved mention to **Sig 'Richie' Long**, who after three attempts has finally made it into the 'Brotherhood'. A secret source said that the 'P' Coy staff were sick of seeing him anyway.

BRAVO TROOP

Now that the Parachute Battalion Rear Links have all but disbanded, Bravo Tp has the privilege of taking on the strength of the men from these detachments. This also means that the recent exploits of 565 and 566 RLDs can be included in these notes.

565 RLD have just returned with 1 Para from Kenya. During a very eventful trip **Cpl 'Chilly' Chillcott, LCpls 'Moby' Whale** and **'Taff' Phelps** (who was promoted in mid-tour much to the horror of the Signal platoon) managed to visit most if not all of the locations and a good suntan was had by all. The exception was **Cpl Dave Chapman,** who never achieved a tan and moaned for most of the time, like potential officers do, so he was left in Nanyuki.

566 RLD is at present in the Falklands. **Sgt 'Gaz' Cripps** making his first return since '82 (pull up a sandbag) led the det consisting of **LCpls 'Jacks' Jackson, 'Taff' Phelps** (now shocking 3 Para Signal Platoon) and **'Rick' Buxton**.

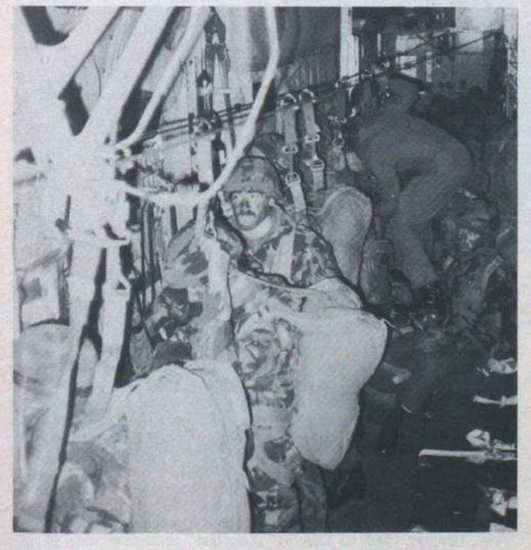
The RLDs will finally fold sometime in April 1988, leaving only one para trained Sergeant to each Battalion for training and liaison. They have been a great channel for co-operation and understanding between our Corps and the Parachute Regt, and have provided valuable cross-training and opportunities for foreign travel. Their going will be a considerable loss to the Battalions, a sentiment frequently expressed by the Regiment at all levels.

EXERCISE DESERT HAWK

Ex Desert Hawk was a Brigade CPX from 9-11 March 1988. The exercise scenario was set in the Middle East, but actually took place in the Aldershot/Guildford area, so there was little need for suntan lotion. The exercise began with the Leading Battalion Group elements of the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 'Jumping' onto Hankley Common DZ. From the DZ RV, **Capt 'Recce' McGrory** and **Cpl Graham Rowlands** set off in slightly the wrong direction (grid to mag add 3,200 mils). The manpack rebro crew, **LCpls Tom Keville, Bob Labrum, Sig 'Bo' Bohanna** and **'Spicey Sausage' Mullins**, tabbed with their kit to a site 12km away. The Brigade Tac party set up Tac HQ, and from then on the exercise progressed normally, with Oscar HQ holding command most of the time, and Papa HQ acting as step-up. By 0800 hrs on the 11th the notional enemy had all been 'wasted' and Endex was called.

The photographs shown were taken during the insertion phase of the exercise by **Cpl Dave Turner** of QM Tp, on the ground at RAE Farnborough and in the air over the DZ.

LCpl Weaver boarding the C130



WO2 (YofS) Roden in the waiting stick

C130 Bedlam—Ex Desert Hawk

LCpl Brown waiting for the green light

TM TROOP

Tp OC	**WO1 (FofS) Dave Jackson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt John Black**
IC Radio	**Sgt George Crozier**
IC TE	**Sgt John Lockert**
IC Power	**Cpl 'Stu' Archer**
IC Line	**Cpl John Allan**

COURSES

Cpl 'Taff' Wilce has passed his T1 entrance exam, while **Cpls Jim Hamill** and **'Jock' Robertson** prepare for theirs in April.

'Well done' **LCpl Alan Sweet** on passing 'P' Coy, especially so soon after joining the Squadron. Also to **Sgt John Black**, who gained a creditable 'B' pass on his MT Sergeants' Course at the ASMT.

Cpl 'Matt' Wigley is about to join a basic hang-gliding course, recruited naturally by the 'Red Baron' alias the FofS, who is due for a continuation course. Who needs parachutes to fly in TM Tp?

TRAVEL

Cpl John Allan has just returned from a three week cruise in the Caribbean, a nautical venture organised by the School of Signals. He would have written some notes about his trip but was whisked away to BAOR by the Squadron Recruiting Team. Both he and **Cpl 'Stu' Archer** represent the Troop on this tour to ensure a high standard of

'press-ganging' in the best Airborne fashion. **Cpl Dave Chapman** returned with 3 Para from five weeks in Kenya and after a short leave, joined the leadership course at 11 Sig Regt. So that was **his** excuse for not writing any notes!

SPORTS

Sgt 'Nick' Preston has been selected to run for the Army Cross Country team and **LCpl 'Ma' Baker** is a member of the Army Boxing Squad. **Ma** has fared well so far in several bouts for the squad and at individual competitions. We wish him well in the forthcoming Army Individual Championships.

On the soccer field the Troop was well represented when the Squadron won the Aldershot Garrison six-a-side competition. **Messrs Black, Allan, Wigley** and **Hindley** helped put the team into the winners spotlight. Well done.

Training for the annual Lanyard Trophy event is progressing well and competition to become a team member is fierce. Twelve members of the Troop are 'champing at the bit' for team selection and should put up some very fast times.

WORK

Notice how we slipped that in last of all! Life in TM Tp is not all sports, travel, play and courses. We like to feel that the Troop provides first-rate technical support to the Squadron, but we thought we would show that sometimes(?) other factors are involved.

and established teams. This fear proved well founded for after a very hard race we finished third. FOD Dulen came first and PCD RE second. However we had achieved our aim to improve on last years result.

During the season and as a build up to these championships, we ran in the Aggregrate League. This is a very strong league open to Navy, Army, RAF and civilian teams. As a bonus we finished runaway winners of the Div 2 section of the league which will mean promotion to Div 1 next season, and stiffer competition.

It would be wrong to single out individuals for special praise, all our achievements were the result of team effort and determination.

After a summer break we are looking forward to the 1988/89 season where our aim will be to become Minor Units Army Champions.

ARMY (UKLF) MINOR UNITS NOVICE GRADE III BOXING FINAL
5 AB BDE HQ AND SIG SQN V 15 BN RAOC
ARMY BOXING CENTRE—23 FEBRUARY 1988

Sig 'Icky' Gratrick represented us at featherweight. He got to work at the onset and caught his opponent with a strong jab. This trend followed into the second round, together with some good 'one twos' all of which resulted in a standing count for the by now weakened **Pte Griffin**.

Encouraged to pile on the pressure **Icky** caused the referee quickly to step-in and stop the bout. He was declared the winner.

South East District Minor Units Cross Country Champions
Standing: LCpl Pete Fearn, Cpl 'Stew' Archer, LCpl 'Woody' Wood, Maj Henry Eagan, Sgt Dave Catchpole, Cpl Dave Pollard, LCpl Tom Kevill
Seated: Sig 'Geordie' Parker, Cpl H. Henderson, Maj Gordon Shipley, Capt (QM) John Kirkman, Sgt Nick Preston, Cpl Rod Cowan

CROSS COUNTRY

It is very pleasing to report that the cross country team has had another very successful season.

We went into the winter with the aim of retaining the South East District Minor Units Winners Trophy and to improve on our fourth position which we achieved at last years Army Championships.

The South East District Championships proved a hard battle between us and our old rival The Depot Parachute Regt, the honours eventually falling to us. This qualified us to go forward to the Army Championships. Having checked the form of the other qualifiers we were well aware of how difficult it would be to beat FOD Dulmen (BAOR) and PCD RE (London District). They are both very strong

Our lightweight coptender was **Cpl Jackson**, who had won his previous bout at the district finals. **Jacko** fought competently with aggression and style, however, it was not enough to convince the judges, and he lost by a narrow points margin to **Pte Ellis**.

The third bout at lightweight brought out the 'old man' of the team, **Cpl 'Spike' Forbes**, who used his considerable experience and cunning to box a very cool bout. He never really allowed himself to get into serious trouble and thus gained a well deserved points win over **LCpl Christie**.

The light middleweight bout was a very hard-fought contest. **LCpl 'Tim' Langley** tried to use his 'crouched' southpaw style to his advantage and showed skill. Unfortunately his opponent **LCpl**

Mumford matched **Tim**'s skill and worked harder to produce a points win by a unanimous decision.

In the middleweight contest **LCpl 'Oli' Oliver**, who had not fared well in the previous final, started with aggression and determination. However **Pte McCreanney** proved to be very skilful indeed and despite a tremendous effort by **Oli** the bout went to 15 Bn by a unanimous decision.

With the score at 2—3 the tension was high as **LCpl 'Taff' Bowen** entered the ring for the light heaveyweight bout. **Taff** started at a steady pace and was comfortably ahead on points, when he was caught by a swinging right hook from **Pte Pyett. Taff** managed to regain his feet only to be counted-out by the ref, much to the teams dismay. As the final bout started, with the bitter taste of impending defeat for the team, there was some consolation at the thought of what our welterweight **Cpl 'Ginge' Udell** could do to redress some of the balance. If looks could kill **Ginge** would be on the wanted list! He sprang into action with a barrage of punches drawing first blood from **Pte Porter** with a blinding right-hook. However it was not to last, his opponent weathered the storm, came back very strongly and put **Ginge** on the canvas several times. So much so that the referee stopped the bout shortly before the final bell and counted him out. Final score 15 Bn RAOC five bouts, 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn two bouts.

Despite the overall loss the team was justifiably proud of its achievement in putting-up such a good contest against a very fit and strong opposition. Both teams were congratulated by the principal guest **Brig P. R. G. Williams**, vice president ABA. The team congratulates the winners 15 Bn RAOC, and thanks their trainer **Sgt 'Ricky' Richards** for everything he did.

Final Note: **Cpl Pete Bauress** who fought in the South East District final was unable through illness to join the fray against 15 Bn, but lent worthy support in the corner.

Army (UKLF) Novice Boxing Championships—Runners-up
SEDIST Novice Boxing Championships—Winners

Straight jab from Sig Gratrick

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Davies**
2IC	**Cap Fraser Grant**
QM	**Capt Charles Homewood**
AO	**Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Dave Raleigh**
OC N Tp	**Capt Julian Bunce**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andy Scott**
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	**WO2 (ORQMS) John Manley, Staffords**

INTRODUCTION

The year continues in the same, busy manner in which it began. Ex Flying Falcon was closely followed by involvement in Ex Winter Warrior, Panthers Pack and the Squadron's adventurous training period in Kinrara. Perhaps the most notable feature of the past two months has been the Squadron's hosting of OTC and CCF visits.

CIV POP

The Squadron had a minor involvement in a Civ Pop exercise on Stanford Training Area. It meant a week of wearing scruff kit, watching TV and listening to music. Not surprisingly there was no shortage of volunteers. What started the week as a mixture of butchered Geordie, Welsh and West Country accents actually ended up sounding vaguely Irish. One or two found life difficult for them, everytime **Sig Louie Plested** and **Gordon Lloyd** set foot outside the house they had their collars proverbially felt by a 'passing' patrol. The only heartache came when on Endex the lads had to revert to being soldiers again and that meant shaving!

'Oh come on sir, it is the weekend' . . . 'Tough'!

P TROOP

As for the Squadron, P Troop has had a busy time over the past few months. Troop members have been spread to the four winds from courses in Catterick to Skiing in Scandinavia, Civpop in Stanford to socialising in Scotland. In fact there have almost been times when OC 'P' has outnumbered the troops on parade.

Congratulations go to **Sgt Steve Rook** who successfully completed his RSSSC coming fifth with an excellent B+ pass. There were, in fact, very few points separating the first six places. **LCpl 'Orms' Ormorod** also faired well on his RSDCC coming sixth and who then travelled, immediately, to Blandford to start his A1 Crammer. Well done both of you and good luck 'Orms'.

P Troop have been involved in both the London OTC and the CCF weekends. The privilege of being the 'pig in the middle' Troop, meant that 'P' was the guinea pig for a 'Treasure Hunt' exercise which was given its first airing. As it happened everyone enjoyed themselves as shown by **Cpl Craig Morgan** (well done on promotion) who returned surprised that it had been fun.

The Troop says farewell to **Sig 'Coxie' Cox** and **Carrington-Moule** both of whom have joined Civ Div. Also **Cpl 'Nobby' Noble** leaves us on posting. Good Luck to all of you. **LCpl 'Curt' Curtis** has left the Troop but has only travelled as far as N Troop and in return we welcome **Sig 'Taff' Phillips** who receives our congratulations on his wedding to **Karen**.

N TROOP

February started with a Squadron deployment to BAOR on Ex Flying Falcon 88. It also coincided with Comic Relief (Red Nose) Day, so all the vehicle drivers and co-drivers left Colchester wearing their red noses. The exercise gave the newer Troop members their first taste of moving from UK to BAOR via LSL. The crossing to BAOR was surprisingly stable, but we still had a few not so good seamen who were glad to reach Terra Firma again.

The exercise itself went well with the Troop producing some sterling communications, both SAS/MC and Radio Relay in particular. For the weekend in the middle of Ex Flying Falcon OC P Troop was tasked to run a survival exercise around and over the 'Ith' feature. It proved to be a success with the troop power and line section led by

Cpl Jim Parker becoming one of the first teams to complete the course in a respectable time of seven hours.

On returning from Ex Flying Falcon the Troop was straight into Unit PRE 4, followed by Ex Panthers Pack a Brigade logistic exercise at Stanford. The Troop eager to please the new DCOS worked well and under the capable supervision of **Cpl Dave Cooke, LCpl** (Now Mr) **Don Mills** and of course the Troop OC **Capt Julian Bunce**, produced the goods again. Throughout the month of March, Ex Snow Panther was being run by OC O Troop in Aviemore, Scotland, he was ably assisted by **Cpl Greg Terry, LCpl 'Ski' Maciejewiski** and **Cpl 'Oggy' Ogden, LCpl 'Curt' Curtis** and **Sig Craig Watts** enjoying a week or two skiing at the end of the month.

Those not fortunate enough to ski during Ex Snow Panther were involved in Civpop with 45 Fd Regt RA at Stanford in which they spent a week as civilians/ASU/Local Dignitaries.

April and a break for Easter! At present the Troop is involved in a vehicle maintenance programme in preparation for the remainder of what will be a busy year. At the end of April the Troop takes part in Ex Panthers Charge II and BBGT, then its once again over to BAOR for Ex Main Brace.

DETACHMENTS

Cpl Frank Massingham and **Sig Andy Mortlock** at JCUFI; 'have a nice time'.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

LCpl Don Mills to civvy street, **Sig 'Taff' Phillips to P Troop, we wish them both the best for the future. Welcome to LCpl 'Curt' Curtis** from P Troop.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl 'Oggy' Ogden** and **LCpl Shaun Fairfield** on their recent promotions.

TECH WKSPS

Taking advantage of a slack period following our return from the glorious Flying Falcon the workshop settled down to a programme of maintenance which allowed various members to attend courses.

Sgt 'Schnauser' Davie went off for his Leadership Course to sunny Catterick and returned ready to lead the lads astray.

Cpl 'Oggy' Ogden (Congratulations on recent promotion) was once again on another mountaineering course. Rumour has it he's accompanying Ian Botham across the Alps disguised as an elephant.

Goodbyes to **Cpl Ian 'Baby Face' Noble** on his posting to 3 Brigade, and **Sgt Pete 'Stutters' Sutcliffe** who is posted to Hong Kong.

Hello to **Cpl 'Woz' Blakey** and **Sgt Jim 'Pools' Vernon**, Congratulations to **Cpl Al Aimer** and wife **Gail** on the birth of their son **Greg.** Also to **Sgt Bob Drysdale** on his successful completion of the dreaded RSSSC.

Condolences to **Cpl 'Stirling' Bendall** on the sad (but hilarious) news of the loss of his beloved black MR2.

FITTER SECTION

AQ—'Can I have some *Wire* notes from your department'? 'Yes Sir, when for'? 'Today'! Nothing changes here, busy, busy, rush, rush.

We've had a fairly busy start to 1988 with Ex Panthers Charge in January, Ex Flying Falcon in February and Ex Snow Panther in March, plus the occasional inspection her and there, including a vehicle and equipment PRE, the generator bay came second again. There was plenty of work for us on the Flying Falcon duty free run, though there was no shortage of contenders for the 'Green Maggot Award'. **Cpl Ayre** and **LCpl Perkins** are currently neck and neck for this exercise season. **Cfn Riley** enjoyed his first exercise in Germany and has got plenty of action photo's to prove to his girlfriend at home, that England is safe now that he has graduated from training.

Welcome to **Cfn Lally** who has recently joined the unit from BAOR and congratulations to **Cfn Wilkes** and **Wilson** on the promotion to LCpl.

Bye for now, can't be late for coffee at SHQ, busy, busy, rush, rush . . .

INS AND OUTS

The Squadron warmly welcomes, **Maj Wright, Capts Davies, Gibbs, Smith, 2Lt Scott, WO2 Manley** (Staffords), **Sgt Vernon, Cpls Dean, Murray, Spurr, LCpls Eddleston, Ferguson, WLCpl Hopkings, LCpl Water, Sig Amos, Ptes Arlett, Davies, Sig King, Cfn Lally, Sig Martin, Roscoe** and **Pte Warden.**

Sadly we say farewell to, **Capt Vesey-Holt, WO2 Grimshaw, SSgt Bate, Sgts Sutcliffe, Masson, WCpl Bamborough, Cpls Hayter, Hitchins, Hopkins, Noble, LCpls Butler, Garland, Huckins, Lambert, Legg, Mills, WLCpl Richardson, Sig Aitken, Carrington-Moule, Cox** and **Sharpe.**

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj B. Robinson**
2IC	**Capt C. S. O'Nians WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 A. W. Williams**
CC and Scribe	**Sgt A. P. Gillard**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome the following, and their families to the Squadron and wish them a pleasant stay: **WO1 (RSM) J. P.** and **Mrs Rose Mold, Sgt Holder** (641 Sig Tp), **Sgt Sinclair, Cpls Speed,** (now Sgt) **McCreath, Sig Olford, Sgt Szczesiak, Cpl Ellis, LCpl Wood, Cpl Bradberry REME** and **Sgt McIntyre** and of course **Mrs Robinson** and sadly have to bid farewell and good luck to **Sgt Hogan, Cpls Taylor, Hannah** and **Sgt Tyson.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Go to **Cpl Blenkinsop** on his recent marriage, and to **Sgts Holt, Thurling, Purnell, Cpl Ellery** and **LCpl Snedden** on their promotions.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last entry we have formally dined out **WO1 (RSM) R. H. Gladwin** (stag), on his commissioning and posting to 28 Sig Regt and dined in **WO1 (RSM) J. P. Mold** and his wife **Rose**; this time with Ladies present to avoid further ear bending of the PMC.

WO1 (RSM) (now Lt) Gladwin sent to jail for second time in his career

VISIT OF CINCENT

On 9 February **Gen H. H. Von Sandrart** (German Army) visited the Squadron as part of his familiarisation with the various and scattered entities which form AFCENT. His visit to 227 Sig Sqn lasted 15 minutes approximately in which time he received a 20 minute briefing from the OC, was introduced personally to most of Admin Tp, and was photographed in full flight by our ace lensman **Sgt Gillard.** It was noticed during the run up period that most of our outstanding works services mysteriously got 'done' overnight, and the whole camp became tidy, with gardeners swarming all over the place, window cleaners, painters and plasterers crawling everywhere, without a word from us. We hope he will visit again soon (we need some new furniture etc!).

THE QUIET LIFE

We have made the most of a quiet start to the year with members disappearing on skiing exercises, military courses and other diversions from the usual life in Maastricht. Carnival Weekend was a notable event, with everyone taking part enthusiastically. But, with the imminent approach of our exercise season, things will soon liven up.

239 Sig Sqn
Colchester

The first *Wire* notes from the newly formed 239 Sig Sqn!

HISTORICAL NOTE
(With acknowledgement to Royal Signals Museum Blandford)

The brief historical background to our formation here at Colchester in Eastern District is that during the Second World War static communications in what was then Eastern Command were provided by Eastern Command Sig Regt. In 1947 with the reduction in the size of the army the Regiment was also reduced in size and became Eastern Command Sig Sqn. Following this but, in the same role, on 1 September 1959 along with the retitling of other Royal Signals Units the Squadron was given the title 239 Sig Sqn (Eastern Command). It then continued as such until in 1964 it was disbanded and absorbed into 10 Sig Regt. It is therefore not entirely illogical to find that on the disbandment of 10 Sig Regt, 239 Sig Sqn was resuscitated in order to continue with the task of running the static communications in what is now Eastern District. Did someone say something about circles?

CREDITS

Anyway, here we are, alive, lusty, kicking and keen to get on with the job.

That we are in such a healthy state is almost entirely due to the hard work of those who did all the preparation and planning for our arrival. Inevitably there are too many to mention everyone by name but we really must mention the happy father of it all the redoubtable SO Comms Headquarters Eastern District **Lt Col (Retd) Mike Panton** who has contributed so much. Also deserving of mention must be the midwife **Maj Trevor Grice**, OC 240 Sig Sqn, who, with many members of his Squadron, did everything possible to ensure a trouble free birth. Finally, the consultant Obstetrician our own Technical Officer Telecommunications **Capt George Turner BEM** who laboured mightily before, during and after. Gentlemen our sincere thanks.

OPERATOR TROOP

Supervisor A **Mr Peter Egan,** from 251 Sig Sqn presently heads Operating Tp pending the arrival in May of **Capt (Tfc) Sylvia Pratt.** Op Tp provides all the Commcens and Exchanges within Eastern District and is therefore spread to the four winds. Naturally all Commcens and Exchanges have been in existence for a number of years, latterly as part of 240 Sig Sqn. We are happy to say that all have survived their metamorphosis in exceeding good heart and are now cheerfully flying the 239 flag. Further changes have been brought about through the introduction of Fastnet and thereby the start of demanning. So far Leicester, Loughborough and Old Dalby have been demanned (womanned really!) and we would like to record our sincere thanks to those operators who gave such sterling service namely **Mrs Edden** and **Mrs Sanders** (Leicester), **Mrs Clark** Old Dalby and **Mrs Griffiths** Loughborough, we are particularly pleased to record that **Mrs Clark** was presented with the Imperial Service Medal on 24 March 1988 having completed a remarkable 43½ years service.

The demanning of these exchanges has in turn produced a much higher workload for **Mrs Dorothy Morris** and her valiant team at Chilwell Exchange. Initially we feared they might be overwhelmed but, fortunately, the user learning curve has eased considerably so that a more satisfactory work load has been achieved.

Our military 'mobile' relief operators have been kept particularly busy since day one with **Sig Rob Roberts, WPtes Keri Garwood, Kate Gifford** and **Karen Schofield** spending large amounts on detachment. On the security side **Cpls Laurence Middleton, Marc Ewart** and **WLCpl Sally Reggler** have become familiar figures in all parts of Eastern District ensuring that all things are properly accounted for.

TECH TROOP

Tech Tp was formed from the Colchester based SWS Tp 240 Sig Sqn, with a few additions, the most recent being **Mr Brian Watts** (Ex FofS) who has joined the team as the PTO Fastnet. He is now busy coming to terms with the reams of reports produced by the BT 123 Telephone management system.

SIGNAL WORKS SERVICES

The Troop SWS detachments ably controlled by the PTO(SWS) **Mr Joe Sharman**, yes he is still here, continues to provide an excellent repair and project service for all ranges in Eastern District. The Colchester crew of **Mr Gusterson, Mike Parker** and **Tom Ratcliffe** are in for a busy time with 'Royal' PA and the Colchester Tattoo in addition to their routine duties. The Thetford detachment of **Mr Michael Knights, Billy Townsend, David Coote** and **Adrian Jenkinson** are responsible for all comms on the Stanford Practical Training Area. The cry of 'the cables have been cut again' is often heard and needless to say they are kept pretty busy. Stores and driving support to both detachments is in the capable hands of **Mr Len Hotston-Moore** and **Ron Smith.** The final member of the team is **Mr Nick Clemens,** cartographer and draughtsman who spends many a happy hour poring over cable diagrams.

TE TECH

The TE Techs are responsible for the maintenance of all protected commcens within the District. They have been kept busy with the on going Trend programme, rewiring etc. The team led by **Cpl Pell** ably supported by **Cpl Cotterell WRAC** and **LCpl Cole** are now experts in finding the shortest routes around the District; all 11 counties.

MOULD CONTROL

Eastern District has two HD regions and hence two Mould controllers namely **Cpl Jenno** in the South and **Cpl Lilley** in the North. Both will depart this year when these posts are converted to NRPS. We wish them both the very best for the future and thank them for their efforts in getting phase two operational.

INAUGURAL VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF MAJ GEN P. D. ALEXANDER MBE

On 15 March 1988 we had the pleasure and honour of receiving a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief. Because the Squadron is spread throughout Eastern District the visit was necessarily confined to those elements located at Colchester, although, happily it was possible for representatives from Chilwell and FSS Stenigot to be present. **Gen Alexander** visited all parts of the Squadron at Colchester and met and talked with virtually everyone. The visit concluded with a buffet lunch in transit accommodation in nearby Cavalry Barracks where the SOinC was able to talk to us informally. For us the visit was really worthwhile and finally marked our arrival on the Corps scene.

Tech Tp SWS. OC Tp Capt (TOT) George Turner introduces members of the 'Black Hand' gang to the SOinC.
L to R: Mr Mick Palmer, Mr Gus Gusterson, Mr Ron Smith and Mr Len Hotstone-Moore

SOinC visits Colchester Exchange
L to R: Exchange Supervisor Mr John Northridge with Supervisor 'A' Mr Peter Egan discuss the merits of Fastnet

SOinC visits Comms Branch HQ E District
L to R: Mrs Norah Swalwell, Lt Col (Retd) Mike Panton

SOinC visits Mould Control and meets Mould Controllers
L to R: Cpls Andy Jenno and Nigel Lilley

Buffet Time—Mrs Brenda Clark (SHQ) infiltrates Comms Branch and Mrs Norah Swalwell and Lt Col (Retd) Mike Panton

SOinC visits Tech Workshop and meets TE Techs
L to R: Cpl Simon Pell and LCpl Darren Cole

SOinC chats with Comms Branch Admin Officer
L to R: Mrs Norah Swalwell, OC 239 Maj Trevor Hendren

NATO FWD SCATTER STATION

Once upon a time in the wilds of Lincolnshire, there was a Tropo Scatter station called 'Sleepy Hollow'. In this place was an Aladdin's cave of prehistoric radio equipment, maintained by a happy band of Signals personnel resembling Ali Baba and his merry men (thieves being too strong a word).

Our glorious leader is **SSgt Andy 'Brickie' Dipple**, he of the short hair and shiny boots. The Troops were suitably impressed when this apparition manifested itself at our hallowed portals. He is always loaded down with paperwork and is seldom seen in the equipment hall, except at the Pool table. His latest claim to fame is to be part of the winning indoor hockey team in the CO's cup at RAF Binbrook, ably supported by **Cpls Andy 'XR3' Crabtree, Ozzy 'Day's off' Chapman** and **Colin 'Whizz Kid' Hamilton**. Other sporting personalities include **Sgt Morgan 'Shades' Davies** and **Cpl Tony 'Crusher' Pomeroy**.

Some members of the Station actually work, led by the Chief Technician **Sgt Nick 'BSA' Keep** who restores British motorcycles and owns a flock of BSA Bantams. **Sgts Dave 'Sunny Scunny' Ryall, Chris 'Luigi' Haigh**, our man from Latina and **Cpl Chris 'The Mechanic' Smith** maintain and occupy the other technical posts at the moment.

Our support for clerical duties is provided by **Louise Leighton**, soon to leave on promotion, and our cleaner **'Curly' Crunkhurn** a frustrated 'Hell's Angel'.

We recently lost two long serving personalities, **Sgts Trev 'Breaker Breaker' Lund** and **Paul 'Enterprise' Archibald** posted to Germany and Latina respectively, what 'rotten' postings!

L to R: Cpls 'Ossie' Chapman, Colin Hamilton, Cpl Andy Crabtree, Wg Cdr Easby, SSgt Andy Dipple

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton hands over to WO2 (SSM) 'Butch' Maycock (The mean looking one)

SHQ

FAREWELL

January saw a fond farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton** and his wife **Marie**who are on their way to Germany. We wish them well and success in their new tour.

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

The following report is re-printed below by kind permission of Reuters. The progress of the SHQ Team will be updated in due course.

SHQ Penpushers 4 Commcen A 2.

Report:- A League got under way with **LCpl Bob Graham**'s young, mobile Commcen A Team meeting a finely tuned veteran SHQ side. The first half produced an end to end game with the honours even at half time 1—1. The second half however, saw the bewildered Commcen Team go down to three quick goals. Mesmerised by the SSM's (**WO 'Butch' Maycock**'s) display of golden years gone by and the cat like display of SHQ goalkeeper **Maj Ruairidh Rutherford**, the Commcen still managed to pull one goal back, despite the sheer speed of the YofS, **WO2 Nick Hammett** and FofS, **WO2 Bob Downie**. A good, hard fought match in which it was rumoured that the Chief Clerk **Sgt Howard Ripley** also took part. The 2IC **Capt Charlie Manning** was held in reserve for when the competition gets tougher.

PERSONALITIES

FofS	**WO2 Bob Downie**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Graeme Hossell**
Line Sgt	**Sgt Stan Holden**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt Derek Bright**
Sys Con	**Sgt John Phillips**

Over the past few months there has been the usual large turnover of bodies in the Troop, recently we have said goodbye to the following:- **LCpl 'Taff' Thomas** who returns to Dhekelia, **Cpl Tim Hope** back to Canada and **Cpl Bob Bray** who returns to Blandford for his T1 entrance. We say hello to **Sig Jimmy Watson, Sgt Jarvis** and from Canada, **Alain Isabelle** (Alo Alo).

To help ease the workload on the Techs, we have been given two of Radio Tp on a trainee YOP Scheme. So far **Sig 'Moose' Moakes** and **'Budgie' Falconer** have managed to introduce the remainder of the Troop to the Radio Tp ritual of the 10 o'clock meetings at the YMCA.

We have been fairly active on the sports field with members of the Troop participating in most sports, notably **LCpls Wayne, Pinhorn, 'Taff' Thomas, Sig Jimmy Watson** and **Sgt Stan Holden** who formed part of the football team that beat the British High Commission/Four Oakes Pub team by an easy 10—0.

Boob of the Week, **LCpl Steve Barclay** whilst weapon cleaning tried to re-educate the Squadron by showing that a bit of 4 × 3 will fit into the gas chamber without getting stuck—nearly!

Our congratulations go to **Cpl 'Daz' Bailey** (T3) on keeping his promotion back in Blandford.

UNFICYP SUPPORT REGIMENT ANNUAL BED RACE

on 1 January 1988 UNFICYP Support Regt held its annual bed race, it was entered by most departments within the Regiment and of course, 254 Sig Sqn took part. The team was as follows:- **Cpls Bob Bray** and **John Bridges, LCpl Steve Barclay** and **Sig Dick Barton** were the 'Engine', **Sig Phill Hewish** was the driver and **Sig 'Mack' McKevitt** was the egg/flour thrower.

The course was twice round the accommodation of Jubilee Camp, with a 'pit stop' on one of the laps. The 'pit stop' consisted of each of the 'engine' members of the various teams drinking a Carlsberg.

The competition was fierce, with plenty of 'jockeying' for position, prior to and during the race. The Fire Brigade was also in attendance but with no fires to extinguish they had to content themselves with watering down the teams as they passed the Fire Engines.

The race was eventually won by AAC Flt with 254 placed third, after a tactical right flanking movement (everyone said we cheated, but I called it initiative).

The winning team was presented with a crate of beer by the CO Support Regt **Lt Col Pyman** (Scots DG). The 254 team adjourned to a crate of beer donated by the Squadron and a good time was had by all.

the Bed Race team enjoying the spoils

24 HOUR MARATHON

A 24 hr marathon was organised by **SSgt B. Lauder** and was held in the Wire Inn in aid of the Foetal Heart Appeal. This very successful event raised £84.30. The Darts Marathon was started by **Maj 'Jocky' Rutherford** and the Pool by **Capt 'Hurricane' Manning**. As the Marathon carried on into the early hours of the morning the real stayers were found—**Cpls 'in solidarity' Everett** and **Bridges, Cpl 'I'll go in a minute' Garner** and **SSgt 'I've started so I'll finish' Thorp**, to name a few.

The OC, 2IC and SSM received an early call and were served breakfast in the bar by **Sig 'Slops' McKevitt**. This successful event came to an end at 1200 hrs on the 23rd much to the delight of all the participants. We would like to thank all the organisers, participants and supporters of this event.

Sgt John Phillips giving instruction to Cpl Adrian Garner

Sig 'Slops' McKevitt showing off what his wife taught him

RADIO TROOP KEO BREWERY TRIP

Radio Tp recently visited Keo Breweries in Limassol to taste and savour the local wines, brandies and beer.

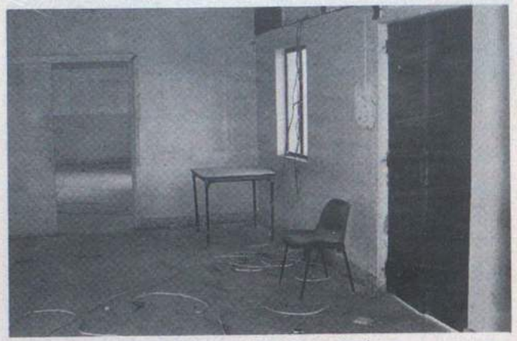
Our guide showed us many interesting things, but unfortunately, our tour of the facilities was cut short by a heavy rain storm. We moved to the tasting hall where we sampled the various products made by Keo. All in all, Radio Tp had a very good time and we wish to thank Keo Breweries for their excellent hospitality.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

THE WIRE INN

Construction of the Wire Inn started last October and completion date was to be 30 November. The mammoth task of transferring a derelict building on the airport was given to **SSgt 'Lemon' Lauder** and his willing press gang. At first progress was slow as **Cpl 'I'll plaster that' Robertson** filled in the many cracks and holes only to be followed by our Tech Wiring Team headed by **Sgt D. 'Oh that's Live' Bright** and **Sgt G. 'I'll get the Avo' Hossell** who promptly destroyed half of his work. Rumour has it that the **FofS WO2 'What's this wire connected to' Downie** found out the hard way that not all the power had been cut off. As the weeks progressed so did the club, finding our willing helpers **Cpl J. 'of Nic' Freegard, LCpl G. 'I thought the water was off' Donnelly** and **Sig 'Fix the door' Saunders** and **Falconer** relocating many items in the area into the club. As the completion date neared, our only fear was that the bar (construction funds courtesy of 30 Sig Regt) would not be built in time. But in the final week the bar arrived, so did the carpets, chairs and tables supplied by the SQMS **SSgt B. 'I'll arrange that' Thorp.** The official opening of the club was by the CO Sp Regt **Lt Col C. Pyman** on 1 December followed by a social evening and buffet. **SSgt 'Lemon' Lauder** even bought the workers a barrel of beer . . . a most unusual occurrence, but appreciated very much.



The Wire Inn 'The Beginning'

COMMCEN TROOP

GAMES NIGHT—COMMCEN TROOP, 9 SIG REGT

After a hastily arranged Games Night a contingent from 9 Sig Regt Commcen arrived to take up the challenge. The Pool competition started off very close and the night was set to be a 'nip and tuck' effort. The Darts was closely matched with **Nick (YofS) Hammett** and **Steve 'Day Cpl' Everett** losing their match.

The downfall of 9 Sig Regt was the beer draughts, **LCpl Max Boyce** lost only three men and then helped his opponent (RAB) in clearing the table. **Nick Hammett** was self-delegated team coach and helped **Sig Dave 'Cave Dweller' Owen,** (who can't play), to an unexpected win. Despite experienced moves being shouted at him, he still lost by two Kings three Men and four Chukkas.

LCpl Max Boyce and **Sig Dan Durdus** were shamed by being beaten 2—1 in the dominoes by **Sandy** and **Fran.**

We would like to extend our thanks to 9 Sig Regt Commcen Tp for an enjoyable evening. We'll keep the cup shiny?

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewells to Cpls John 'Bless you my son' Bridges, Duncan 'Part-time Worker' Meachin, Sig Lee Turner—Good Luck at 14 Sig Regt, **Andy Major, Pete Messenger, 'Geordie' McKnight** and **Dan 'Bottlewalker' Burdas**. Hope you get on well; think of us at Ayia Napa. Stay Lucky.

Welcome to all the FNG's, **Cpls Mitch 'Your round' Mitchell, Paul 'I'll change the UN yet' Lewis, Sig John 'Bedbug' Bedborough, Spence 'Wolfman' Wolf, Dave 'Wolfie' Pipe-Wolferstan, Martin 'Ash' Ashworth** and **Kev 'Ash 2' Ashfield**. Hope you all enjoy your tour on the Island.

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. D. Symonds**
2IC	**Capt T. J. Pengelley**
Sqn SM	**WO2 (SSM) Smiley**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Atkinson**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Reynolds**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Howells**
Trg SSgt	**SSgt Wise**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Morrissey**
Pay Sergeant	**Sgt Laughlin RAPC**

We again say hello and goodbye to several faces: SHQ bids farewell to **Capt Bill Olive** who has left us to take up the appointment of QM at 30 Sig Regt. He will be sorely missed by all in the **'Red Hand Gang'**, especially for his contribution to the sport of rallying, but we are assured that his interest in this area will continue, as will his keeness to learn to play golf!

Also leaving is **Sgt 'Daz' Giles** our illustrious Pay Sergeant who has successfully completed his two year tour here and goes to Colchester and the Royal Green Jackets on promotion to Staff Sergeant.

Finally the last to leave, at the time of going to press, will be our Orderly Room Corporal, **Cpl 'Robbie' Morrison** who has completed his 22 years in Royal Signals. **Cpl Morrison** intends to continue to reside in this area to ensure he continues his squash career which developed during his tour here.

SHQ welcomes **Capt Tom Pengelley** from Regimental Headquarters. He assumes the appointment of 2IC. **Sgt Simon Laughlin** who takes over as Pay Sergeant and **Cpl Trevor Glover** will be the Orderly Room Corporal. In addition we welcome **SSgt Tony Wise** who took over as Military Training/Trade Training Co-ordinator and **Sig Eddie Edwards** a convert ROp from Bravo Tp to the Orderly Room. We hope you all enjoy your tour with the **'Red Hand Gang'**.

Finally we are busy preparing for the Reunion which takes place during the last weekend of May (27-29 May). For further details write to **WO2 (SSM) Smiley**.

MALCOLM CLUB'S GLIDING AWARD SCHEME
by LCpl M. Preston

Flying has always held a fascination for me, so some three years ago, once I had settled into my first BAOR unit, 14 Sig Regt, I decided to take the plunge and take up gliding.

For two years my bids for an Army and Joint Services Gliding Course were unsuccessful as was my application for a PRI grant to join the local German Gliding Club in Scheuen, the latter being both very expensive and very complicated to achieve. Then in late 1986 I came across the 'Malcolm Club Gliding Award' in DCI's.

After completing the application and getting it approved by my CO, **Lt Col Shaw**, I awaited the results of the board which was to approve the awards in February 1987.

Confirmation duly arrived, together with a list of all the service gliding clubs both in the UK and BAOR, that I could attend. After gaining the award it was now up to me to prove my ability, but first I had to decide where!

After much deliberation I finally chose 'Pegasus' Gliding Club in Gutersloh, it being the nearest to my unit at only 256km for the round trip! It was a journey I was to get to know well.

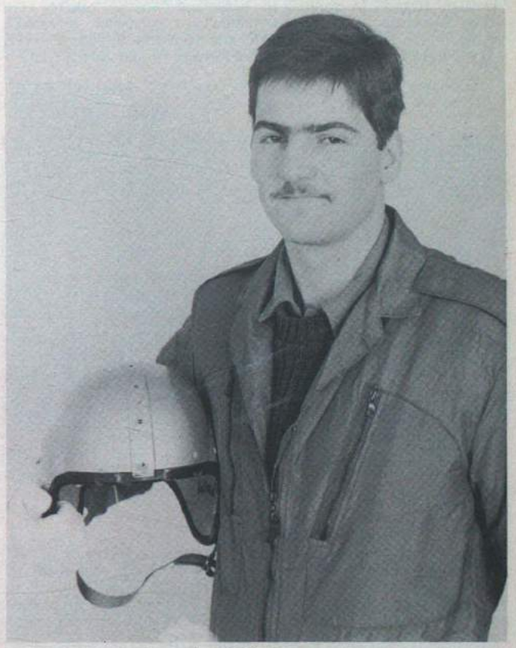
After work every Friday, having packed an overnight bag, I headed down to RAF Gutersloh and the transit accommodation, beginning a routine that would become very much a part of my life for the next three months.

During that period whenever a 'first' for a student occured a small donation would be placed behind the Club's bar and it was when, having completed almost three months training, that my instructor finally walked out on to the tarmac with me and said 'It's all yours . . .', that my donation of DM10—became the best I've ever made. I was to fly solo!

The award totalled £200 and upon being granted it, the only condition required of the student, was that he must fly solo within six months. I had managed it in three and thereby was still well within the limit.

Shortly after going solo I was posted to 244 Sig Sqn and was able to join Bicester Glider Club where I recently converted from the canvas KB's I'd flown in Gutersloh, to the glass Fibre K21's.

I shall continue to fly long after the award finishes and hopefully progress to bigger things in the future.



LCpl M. Preston

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

SQUADRON MATTERS

The Squadron would like to congratulate **Maj Tony Morgan** on his recent promotion and hence increased status in the WSBA Golf Club. In addition **SSgt (FofS) Sy Fawthrop** and **Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick** should be congratulated for 'coming off' their respective boards. We would also like to welcome two new officers. **Capt (TOT) Frank Running** as the new OC Episkopi Tp and **Lt Bill Balding** as the new OC Airfield Tp.

HODGSON SHIELD PENTATHLON

March saw the last of the 11 events which make up the annual Hodgson Shield (inter Troop sports competition). The pentathlon was fought out between five Troop teams of six men, with points from each man's performance counting towards the overall team score. The events were:- 75m Sea Swim, 3,000m Hill Climb, Gym Tests, Shoot and Log Race.

At the end of the day the Squadron gathered in the Jimmy Club for the presentation. Line Section was victorious claiming both the Pentathlon and Hodgson Shield. Congratulations go also to **Sgt Chris 'Axeman' Higgins** for winning the individual Pentathlon prize.

The Squadron now looks forward to a somewhat revamped competition in 1988/89 in which HQ and Mountain Tp's combine to make a three way competition with Episkopi Tp and Airfield Tp.

Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick on the Gym tests

AIRFIELD TROOP

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Sadly we bid farewell in the near future to the following Troop personalities:- **Cpl George Henry** and family to the just as sunny climes of Gibraltar. **Sgt Mick May** and family to 39 Bde Sig Sqn as big a loss to the football team as he is to the Troop. **Cpl Colin Keil** and family winging his way to a Sergeant's Post at 21 Sig Regt. Good Luck and Best Wishes to you all!

We welcome **Sig 'Straight from the factory' Rapson** who was suitably dined in on his first night, and an old hand on his second tour of Cyprus **Cpl Ernie Wise.**

Well done the Football Team, ably run by **Sig Mick May**, on winning this Hodgson Shield Event. Alas the Rugby did not go quite as well but spirits were kept up by an outside broadcast unit of the BBC (Brixton Broadcasting Corporation). Cameraman **LCpl Charlie Handson** and **Sig Taff 'I'm a man' Duncan** filmed and interviewed anything and anyone who came within grabbing distance of them, bringing a little light relief to an otherwise overcast day.

Memo to the Atlas Crew (GH and DB).

When Atlas and Aeroplane meet, Aeroplane always wins!

MOUNTAIN TROOP

Activity at 6,000ft has been suppressed, to a great extent, by the annual heavy snowfall and regular lightning risk. However it certainly has not suppressed the morale of the Mountain Men of 259's Mountain Tp. They recently pulled off an outstanding victory in the Hodgson Shield Inter-Troop Rugby Competition. Special mention to **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson** a prolific try scorer throughout the day.

Welcome to **Sig 'Fudge' MacPhee** who arrived from Basic Training.

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Umin' Moore** on his forthcoming marriage to **Julie**. We wish them happiness in their future together.

Mountain Tp team on the log run

ALPINE SKIING

The Squadron took Alpine Skiing seriously this season sending three skiers to Kaprun, Austria, to join the Corps Ski Camp. Training went well and the team returned, enthusiastic about the Near East Forces Ski Championships (NEFSKI).

SSgt Roy Habergham, Cpls Stan Staniford and **Rich Cressey** all qualified as JSDSIs and joined the Milski staff at Troodos to teach 'would-be' skiers.

A few families' weekends skiing were also arranged and enjoyed by all at 259.

The NEFSKI Championships consisted of a Giant Slalom, a slalom and a combination out of the 31 competing teams. The team consisted of **Cpls Stan Staniford, Rich Cressey, Andy Roberts** and **LCpl Andy Cook. Cpls Stan Staniford, Rich Cressey** and **LCpl Andy Cook** were selected to represent the Army (Cyprus) team in the Inter-Services.

Army Ski Team (Cyprus)
Top left: LCpl Andy Cook. *Top right:* Cpl Stan Staniford. *Bottom right:* Cpl Rich Cressey

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 Davis**
FofS Systems	**SSgt Gordon Marchant**
SSgt TE Tech Systems	**SSgt Dave Rodgers**
SO Systems	**Miss Lorraine Kirkwood**
SSgt TE Tech Equipment	**SSgt Stuart Bromidge**
FofS Equipment	**WO2 Kevin Stock**
FofS Wavell	**WO2 Dave Smith**
SSgt TE Tech Wavell	**SSgt Tony Byrne**
Admin Officer	**Mr Bob Robins**
Admin Assistant	**Mrs Linda Davies**
Typist	**Mrs Bea Thompson**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

SSgt Jerry D'Alquen BEM left the Army in October 1987 after 22 years service. His last day in uniform was the occasion of the presentation of his BEM by The Master of Signals **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock MBE DL. Mr Jerry D'Alquen** still has close liaison with PWSST as he now works at Christchurch with Admiral Computing.

Presentation of BEM to SSgt J. E. D'Alquen, October 1987 by Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock

Next to leave was **WO2 (FofS) Bob Bradford** also after 22 years service—we wish him every success in civilian life. **WO2 (FofS) Kevin Stock** replaced **FofS Bradford** and is now well established in the Leper Colony—the name for those members of PWSST and 9 MAG who reside in the Portcabins!

Mrs Elaine Jupp departed PWSST in December after a short period working in the Incident Report cell.

Lt Col J. S. Doody and SSgt J. E. D'Alquen enjoying a glass of champagne following the presentation

Maj Bob Shotliff REME a member of 9 MAG left the Army in December 1987 and was lunched out in style in the Corps Room. He has joined the Civil Service and continues with 9 MAG at a PTO. His replacement is **Lt Alan Cook**, who previously served with PWSST Forward.

Farewell lunch to Maj B. Shotliff REME

GENERAL

Throughout the last six months members of PWSST Main have been regular visitors to BAOR attending briefings, and giving presentations. Members of the Wavell team—**Capt Keith Pritchard, WO2 (FofS) Dave Smith** and **SSgt Tony Byrne** gave support on Ex Vantage Point and Ex Flying Falcon.

December 1987 marked the end of the Corkscrew Trophy—an annual pistol competition between PWSST and 9 MAG. 9 MAG were the winners and keen for an alternative to the Corkscrew Trophy have just challenged PWSST to a new event—Skittles. The plan is that this match will take place following the PWSST/9 MAG Military Training Day in May.

The Team continues to be heavily committed especially with contractor trials prior to System Level Modification B.

SSgt Tony Byrne has started a PWSST/9 MAG squash ladder which has been great fun—**Lt Col John Doody** is still to be defeated!

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Maj Helier Exon** who has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and has been appointed the next SO1 (W) PWSST. This definitely constitutes a hat trick—RSI silver medal, MBE and promotion all in one tour!

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES

Force Signal Officer	**Capt Jim Dryburgh**
OC Tp	**Capt Mike Griffiths**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Pete Stemmer**
FofS	**WO2 Ron Kirkwood**
YofS	**WO2 Keith Pywell**

CONGRATULATIONS

The Troop would like to offer sincere congratulations to **Ron Kirkwood** on his selection for WO1, **Pete Stemmer** to be promoted to WO2 on posting and to **Simon Jones** on his promotion to Sergeant. The bar took some dollars that week!

ROYAL VISIT

7 February was the day that **HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh** visited Airport Camp. All the usual hustle and bustle to smarten the camp up had been going on during the previous weeks, then on the big day it poured with rain all day.

The 633 Sig Tp exhibition stand was the HF radio equipment used by the Troop when called out to provide comms for disaster relief. Since it was raining there was no way that **Sgt Baz Eagen** was going to get his precious radios wet so he covered them in polythene. The OC, **Capt Mike Griffiths** welcomed **HRH** on arrival. Among those presented were **WO2 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood** and **Mrs Carole Kirkwood**.

RELAXATION

Cayes trips are still the favourite form of relaxation within the Troop and on a recent trip **Sgt Stu Ryder** came up with a novel idea for lighting a barbecue. Firstly, you make sure that you hand is liberally covered with charcoal starter, then you strike a match using the same hand, then you push your burning hand under the charcoal until it catches alight, or, as **Stu** did, run around the beach shouting, then shove the fiery member into the cool box containing the ice . . .

Sgt Chris Ward, after being in the Troop for only five weeks, actually managed to get on a Cayes trip. The reason for this delay is that he did not realise that the GSM weilds the same power as an RSM and when he says 'Get your 'air cut' that is exactly what he means. **Chris** is pleased to tell everyone that he is only doing his normal quota of duties now . . .

SSgt Pete Stemmer decided that organising a Cayes trip was easy, all he forgot to do was to indent for sunshine. The barbecue and Cayes trip was held in the Foreman's back garden and followed by everyone watching Superman IV on the TV.

WIGGLE WOGGLES

The dining out of **Sgt Bri Appleyard** was a night to remember. All the Troops SNCOs were sitting in the resturant when **Bri** noticed something in his glass of water. After much inspection and debate, the waiter was called over, and asked to explain the presence of these strange creatures. 'They are just wiggle woggles' he said coolly as he walked away!

HELLOS

The Troop would like to welcome the following 'Moonies': **Capt Jim Dryburgh, Sgt Chris Ward, Cpl Simon Boyd** and **Cpl 'Don't be naughty in Mexico' Bowes**. Have a good tour.

FAREWELLS

The Troop says farewell to the following and wishes them all the best in their new units: **Capt Neil Swainson, Sgts Bri Appleyard, Baz Eagen, Stu Ryder, Cpls 'Girlie' Crossing, Mac McNaughton** and **'DP' Davison Page**.

JOINING THE MEN

EXECISE JUNGLE JANE

by Carole Kirkwood

Ex Jungle Jane was a weekend Adventure Training Exercise which took place 4-6 March organised by the British Forces Belize wives club, I was the only Royal Signals representative. The idea was that 13 wives would be airlifted into the jungle and spend the weekend doing jungle survival training under the watchful eye of members of the 2nd Bn the Parachute Regiment.

4 March arrived all too quickly and I was not sure that I had made the correct decision mainly because snakes, large spiders and creepy crawlies in general are not my favourite animals! I dressed in my suits combat tropical, jungle boots (two sizes too big) and of course hats floppy ridiculous. My husband **Ron** helped me on with my Bergen and off I staggered to join the rest of the wives club.

The RAF airlifted us to Holdfast Camp in a Puma helicopter from there we were taken to our drop off point in 4 tonners. The survival training started straight away with the Para instructors showing us how to build an 'A' frame to support our hammocks! Then they gave us all a machete and told us to get on with it! It was build the 'A' frame or sleep on the floor and the thought of all those creepy crawlies spurred me onto do great things and after some sweaty work not to mention the blisters my jungle 'Basha' was ready for occupation, but where was our supper? 'In that little brown box by your kit' we were told. This was when the second lesson started, how to cook the rations in the 24 hour ration pack. The hot chocolate came out tops with the Biscuits AB brown being very lowly rated, and it was so hot and humid that the Spangles were just one gooey mass.

After a restless night listing to the jungle sounds and the instructors firing blank ammunition to warn off a prowling Jaguar Saturday dawned. This was to be spent on the Close Quarter Battle Range using the SA 80 (eat your heart our **Ron**). The lads from 2 Para made it as real as possible but in the final battle, even though we put up a spirited fight, we were all declared dead. More lessons on jungle survival (do you know what too much coconut can do to you?) and to bring a very enjoyable day to an end the Paras laid on a barbecue (**Ron**: 'I thought that this was a survival course'!) with the odd bottle of beer and wine being passed around!

Sunday saw us 'De-Basha' and make our way to the waiting 4 tonner and then to the Puma which flew us back to Airport Camp.

The weekend was very enjoyable and now I know what it is like to spend some time working in a very humid environment dressed in clothing that is always wet and just how difficult it is to walk through dense jungle. All that time in the jungle and I did not see one snake until I got back to Airport Camp where there was one near my quarter!

I have been in Belize now for nearly four months and during that time I have pony trekked through the foothills around Cooma Cairn, done a jungle survival course, handled and fired the SA 80 in the Garrison SAAM and even handled a snake at the Belize zoo. My husband **WO2 (FofS) Kirkwood** has managed the odd Cayes trip and also he says, the odd bottle of Belikan now and again.

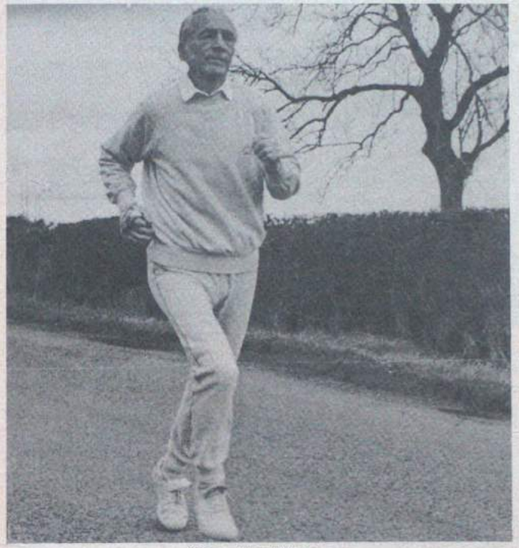
Ex Jungle Jane
Members of the British Forces Belize wives club and 2 Bn Para Regt Instructors

Association News

CAPT (Retd) A. WALKER MSM

Capt Alex Walker, now aged 75 years, dubbed 'Captain Fantastic' by the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette, is shown in training for the London Marathon. He is to be congratulated on successfully completing the 26 mile course in 4 hr 10 mins and for raising over £2,200 (more than twice his target) for British Heart Foundation. Although very fit, he only took up running again three years ago. **Alex** would like to record his appreciation for the generous sponsorship and encouragement he received from within the Corps.

Many readers will remember **Alex** as a Corps Cross-Country Runner (Egypt Sigs 1933-38). He served in the Corps from 1931-59 and friends will be sorry to hear that his wife, **Joy**, died last year.



Capt Alex Walker
Photo by courtesy of the Evening Gazette, Teesside

BEDFORD BRANCH

On 27 February 1988 our branch held its Annual Dinner at the Bedford and County Golf Club, Clapham, Beds.

Members with their wives and guests attended the evening. Guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Bedford, **Councillor** and **Mrs William Astel**; the Mayor very knowledgeable on military history and supporter of old comrades associations. **Lt Col C. D. Gale TD (V)** CO, 36 Sig Regt (V) and **Mrs Gale** and **Mr** and **Mrs Crawley** a Beds and Herts old comrade who gave us a lot of help in the forming of our branch and also served us well as bar steward in the club bar at the TAC.

An excellent meal in pleasant surroundings was enjoyed by all with the Regimental Lances, Silver Table centre piece, Regimental Standard and our own branch Standard adding to the decor of the room.

You may recall reading of the visit by Cambridge Branch to Bedford. A return invitation from Cambridge to visit them in the new TAC on 30 September was accepted by 14 Bedford Members. New tactics were planned and we did win some games of darts and dominoes although losing overall, we did get one or two raffle prizes this time. Bedford members would like to thank Cambridge friends for their hospitality and a splendid buffet and look forward to more successful inter-branch social and competition evenings.

Our Annual Christmas Draw was held on 15 December 1987 with another success and 44 prizes, the draw being the continuation from its origin to raise funds for our Branch Standard in 1982, all tickets now sold through branch membership. Friends from Northampton Branch accepted our invitation as guests for the evening.

DERBY BRANCH

Report by Dorothy Williamson

On 19 March members and guests gathered at Kingsway TA centre for their Annual Dinner Dance.

Our Guests of Honour for this occasion were **Lt Col Coltman** CO of 38 Sig Regt, Deputy Sheriff of Derbyshire **Lt Col Glanville OBE MC DL** with his wife, **Mrs Haslehurst** and her son **Peter**.

On arrival the guests were welcomed by the Committee.

After an excellent meal served efficiently by TA personnel a Toast to absent friends was proposed by the Chair.

Lt Col Coltman's after dinner speech in which he referred to the Association and to old and modern methods in the Army was inspiring and interesting. **LCpl M. Adams** did a magnificient job with his disco, along with **Betty** the Squadron Clerk who made sure all joined in the dancing. She did such good a job one wonders if a certain crate of wine didn't give her that extra bit of energy, especially when she and **SSgt Landsborough** entertained us with a rock session: we think the building will survive!

Many thanks to the OC of 46 Squadron for the use of their facilities, to the mess members for allowing us the use of their mess for our monthly meetings and to all members of 46th Squadron for the interest and good relationship they expressed to our Branch.

AGM

This took place on 16 March and with the exception of three the Committee remains the same. **Maj Etherton** replaces **Maj Phillip** as Vice President. Ex **WO2 Bacon** becomes Assistant Entertainment Secretary and **Pte Lowe** replaces **Cpl Fletcher**.

Our Vice Chairman and sick visitor **Geoff Allman** is recovering from his operation and we are looking forward to a successful 1988.

In conclusion it gives much pleasure to announce that **Col A. Hawksworth TD ADC** is to be our Vice-President of the Branch.

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

In the hope of encouraging a few more members to attend our Branch meeting we have, since January, been holding our meeting in the Sergeants' Mess, Copthorne Barracks by kind permission of the senior member **WO1 Bob McMullan** Irish Guards. Alas the bait has not been anymore successful than our previous venue. Still, it is early days and it may prove to be a wise move when more people get to know about the location.

February saw the Branch holding its annual dinner in the Beauchamp Hotel, our main guests of the evening were the Garrison Sergeant Major **WO1 Bob McMullan** and his wife **Ann. Colin McMillan** our entertainments member, is to be congratulated on yet another excellent evening. 'Well done **Colin**, thanks for all your hard work'. We hope the ladies enjoyed their belated Christmas present of a Stick Pin Corps Badge, a 'Thank You' for allowing us menfolk the odd evening off to attend Branch Meetings.

After dinner **John Wall** our Branch President presented on behalf of the Branch a Bronze Cast 'Jimmy' to **WO1 Bob McMullan** to

The Smile of Success. The entertainments Member Colin and Jane MacMillan after a successful social evening

cement the very good relations which exist between us and the Sergeants' Mess.

John expressed a wish that 'Jimmy' be displayed on all formal occasions. **WO1 Bob McMullan** in thanking the Branch for its most generous gift said it would be displayed for all to see.

Another year, another Grand National Draw has come and gone, and the Draw Committee would like to thank all those good people who took the time to sell the draw tickets, without their support and help it would be impossible to run the Draw. If you didn't win this time round there is always next year. As a result of your excellent efforts we were able to send a cheque for £450 to RHQ for the Royal Signals Association.

The lucky prize winners were:-

1st Prize £150—Ticket No 04549 **K. Butler** 28 Sig Regt with Rhyme 'n' Reason.

2nd Prize £75—Ticket No 03238 **K. Williamson** Scotton Catterick with Durham Edition.

3rd Prize £25—Ticket No 01698 **Cpl Ratna Rai** 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn with Monanore.

4th Prize £10—Ticket No 14761 **Mrs M. Riggs** RHQ Royal Signals with West Tip.

Presenting 'Jimmy'
Left to Right: WO1 Bob McMullan IG GSM Shrewsbury, Maj Bob Aitken Branch Secretary and John Wall Branch President

'After Dinner'
Left to Right: Phil Johnson, Ken Hewitt Guest (Ex Gunner), Charlie Williams, WO1 Bob McMullan, John Wall and Maj Bob Aitken

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

Report by Mr E. E. Bayley, Hon Secretary

On Saturday 26 March the 36th AGM and Annual Reunion dinner was held at the Victory (Services) Club. A milestone was reached when it was voted that future functions would take the form of luncheons. Times have changed and 18 March 1989 had been duly booked for our next Reunion at the Victory Club. There will be no rushing off to catch last trains and members will be able to spend more time together; also save the expense of overnight accommodation. To mark the occasion ladies had been invited and were welcomed by the secretary who invited them to have a lucky dip in his Army & Navy bag and draw a surprise sample of perfume which had been kindly donated by some stores after some arm twisting! This proved a winner and got the evening off to a good start and provided a talking point. Our Guests of Honour on this occasion were the Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief **Brig Roy Maynard** and **Mrs Maynard. Lt Col Ashley Truluck,** CO of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and the RSM **WO1 Rick Licence** represented the Regiment. The President, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe** in a short speech welcomed our guests and first footers who had joined the Regiment in Ghent, in 1945, prior to Egypt and Palestine. These were **Messrs B. J. Anderson, P. T. Gibbons, Lt (QM) P. C. Packman** and **G. A. Sutherland.** Amongst the guests was the Secretary of the Indian Signals Association, **Mr Alex Trueman,** who was on a recruiting drive and will I trust, be a regular attender of the gathering of the 'Ironsides'.

After the loyal toast to her Majesty and our Colonel-in-Chief **Brig Roy Maynard** an ex Commanding Officer of the Regiment and who first invited the Reunion Club to Soest thanked the Committee for having invited him and his wife to this 36th Regunion. He wished the Club every success and was very pleased to see that it continued to enjoy good support on these occasions. Ex Linemen present were I think, surprised to learn that this is now a redundant trade!

A note of sadness as **Cpl Derek Wood** so tragically in the news recently had been a member of 3 Divisional Sig Regt. Recruiting today was presenting a problem in some areas and members were asked to encourage worthy young men and women to consider joining the Corps.

Col Truluck invited the members to attend a Regimental Weekend in July and this was warmly received and it is hoped to have a good response.

The City of Caen has commissioned a monument to the Division which has been designed by the City Architect of Portsmouth (an ex Desert rat). The monument consists of four square columns in Caen Stone 2m in height (symbolic of the new Town) rising out of a heap of rubble. Three of the columns bear the names of the Regiments and the badges of the three Infantry Brigades plus the Armoured Regiments of 27th Armoured Brigade. The fourth column will be inscribed in English and French 'To The Memory of the 3rd British Infantry Division, One of the Assault Divisions which Landed on D-Day 6 June 1944 and Liberated Caen 9 July 1944'. All four columns will bear the Divisional Sign and the monument will be sited beside one of the paths leading up to the battlements of Caen Chateau. An official ceremony will take place at 0930 hrs on 7 June 1988.

The memorial of the Battle of Normandy (A Museum for Peace) will be inaugurated with due ceremony by the President of France at 1500 hrs on 6 June.

The 3rd Div will be carrying out their annual ceremony at La Brech Hermanville that evening 6 June at 1900 hrs when the GOC will lay a wreath on behalf of the Division. Later, veterans and villagers will march to the Hermanville cemetery where a short service will be held and children will place flowers on the graves of those who died there on the beaches and during the battle that followed.

Those present at the Dinner were: **Brig** and **Mrs F. R. Maynard, Lt Col A. E. G. Truluck, WO1 (RSM) R. L. Licence, Mrs D. Kontzle, Mrs E. Barrett, Mr B. J. Anderson, Mr W. J. Anderson, Mr E. E. Bayley, Mr J. M. H. Brady, Brig** and **Mrs J. D. T. Brett, Mr T. H. W. Dean** and **Mrs Reavley, Mr** and **Mrs F. B. Dilworth, Mr F. B. Dukes, Mr** and **Mrs F. G. East, Maj R. S. Etherington, Mr** and **Mrs P. T. Gibbons, Mr C. E. Hodder** and son **David Hodder, Mr** and **Mrs R. Hobbs, Mr** and **Mrs W. H. Holden, Mr S. G. Hounsell** and son **Ian Hounsell, Capt A. Hughes, Maj H. Kelly, Mr** and **Mrs E. G. Leat, Brig** and **Mrs C. G. Moore, Mr P. H. C. Munchin, Mr** and **Mrs S. G. H. O'Dell, Mr E. W. Packham, Lt (QM) P. C. Packman, Mr** and **Mrs Packman, Mr T. A. Pakeman, Mr H. W. Palmer, Mr P. W. Pannett, Col A. F. Pownall, Maj D. J.** and **Mrs Roberts, Brig** (The Rev) and **Mrs Rowett, Maj K. N.** and **Mrs Smartt, Mr W. Spittal, Mr A. W. Spratley, Mr** and **Mrs G. A. Sutherland, Mr** and **Mrs H. F. Timms, Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, Mr A. Trueman, Mr** and **Mrs A. Veasey** and **Maj** and **Mrs A. B. Wheeler.**

3 TROOP—1 WAR OFFICE SIG REGT

Ex **Sig A. R. Goulding,** shown second from right (seated on the grass) would be pleased to hear from any former friends who served with him at the Signal Office in the War Office. This photograph was taken in 1948 when the Troop was billetted in Eaton Square. Among the officers are **Capt Routledge** and **Lt Barber. Mr Goulding** lives at 10 Clayton Street, Landore, Swansea, W Glam (Tel: 533550).

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SECTION—1936

Some readers will be interested in this photograph which shows most of the Section on the Rock in 1936 when they were converting overhead to underground cable. **Sgt H. J. Cob** who sent the photograph would be pleased to hear from his former comrades and also from members of 19 Line Section, Harrogate, Egypt and Greece 1939-1941. He lives at 71 Crockford Part Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey KT14 2LN.

Cpl Jack Manning, Sgt Chris Parry, Edgar Perry, Harry Culk, Donald Buck, LCpl 'Slick' Turner, Harry Wiseman, Henry Fulford, Henry Binstead, FofS D. Diamond, Johnny Bull, LCpl 'Badgy' Sumner, Len Harvey, Dick Barre, four unknown (Gibraltarians); in trilby, Civilian Clerk, D. Chiplonia, seated with cap, J. Cardona

— Sport —

RUGBY

COPRS RUGBY REPORT 1987/88

A report on the matches played before Christmas has already been published in *The Wire*. Reports on the matches played in 1988 are below. The season has been successful and a significant change to the style of forward play has been introduced to Corps rugby. In common with the rest of the world second phase possession is now rapidly gained through rucks and this was practised most successfully in the last three games after a convincing demonstration of its effectiveness by the REME.

The more knowledgeable reader will of course say that the change should have been made earlier but this error reflects the absence of a Corps Rugby team coach. **Capt Dick Strawbridge** volunteered his help for the last five matches and it was under his direction that the change of style was successfully made and thanks are due to him for his enthusiasm and hard work. Alas he is now posted to BAOR.

The side was again captained by **Lt Stewart Sharman** throughout the season and he can now look back from BAOR on two successful seasons. To name further members of the Corps rugby fraternity here would be invidious but all those who came to Blandford, for however long, contributed to the season's success. Thanks to them from a grateful Secretary for their time, enthusiasm and contributions to creation of team spirit, but not their over-strong liking for rugby kit. The aim however was to enjoy the rugby and all that goes with it; this was fully achieved.

For next season the same enthusiasm and willingness to give to a common cause is vital; it would also be highly beneficial if the squad that assembled was already fully fit and knowledgeable so that squad training sessions could be dedicated to tactics rather than practising basic skills. Rugby officers are asked to contact the Secretary with names of suitable candidates for the task of Corps Rugby Coach.

In summary:-

Played	Won	Lost	Points For	Points Against
9	7	2	171	70

ROYAL SIGNALS V RAOC
BLANDFORD 27 JANUARY 1988
RESULT: R Signals 8 RAOC 9

After all the heavy rain before the game the pitch was in surprisingly good condition. The rain stayed away throughout the game but as frequently happens in Blandford a strong wind from one end of the ground kept most of the play in one half.

The Corps played into the wind in the first half and did well to restrict RAOC scoring to two penalties and a dropped goal. Some good passing and running by the backs gave encouragement for the second half but unfortunately led to no scoring by the Corps in the first half and so we turned round nine points down.

As so often happens, readjustment to playing with the elements took a long time and the solid RAOC defence frustrated early sustained pressure by the Corps. With only 10 minutes remaining the game appeared to be running out of steam, the RAOC was attacking strongly and seemed likely to increase its lead. Suddenly however the Corps team seemed to wake up and some really excellent passing movements involving both forwards and backs led to two first-class tries being scored by **Sgt Trevor Keates** and **Cpl 'H' Glean**. **Cpl 'Tiny' Philips** came very close with both conversion attempts from near the touch line but unfortunately time ran out on the Corps and the RAOC just won by nine points to eight.

On the whole the result was disappointing. Second phase possession was always slow and the basic rucking skills were not well exercised. Line out possession was a good feature with **Cpls 'Tiny' Philips** and **Bob Vowles** playing very well in this department. The Corps also scrummaged well for much of the match particularly against the head but the game was one of missed opportunities.

Team: **Sgt Keates, Cpl Glean, Lt Richardson, Sgts Richardson, Stephenson, LCpl Harwood, WO1 O'Brien, Sgt Wallace, Lt Whimpenny, Cpls Fallon, Vowles, Philips, Lt Cooper, Sgt George** and **Lt Sharman (Capt)**.

ROYAL SIGNALS V ROYAL ARTILLERY
LARKHILL 22 FEBRUARY 1988
RESULT: R Signals 10 RA 8

After all the recent rain and high wind this match was played in perfect conditions on a dry pitch. The Corps started at a tremendous pace and swamped the Gunners for the first 10 minutes and scarcely left the Gunners' half of the pitch for the first 20 minutes. However, all this pressure failed to produce a score mainly due to poor finishing, an absence of quick second phase possession and very solid Gunner defensive work. After 25 minutes the Gunners turned defence quickly into attack and scored an excellent try which took them most of the length of the field to a 4—0 lead much against the run of play so far.

The Corps team responded energetically to this set-back; **Cpl Price** charged down a casual Gunner clearance and then followed up to touch down with several Gunner players hanging on to him in vain. Shocks were not over for the Corps however as the Gunner fly-half scored an excellent solo try with an individual run following a short penalty. That left the score at half time 8—4 to the Gunners with the Corps feeling more than a little unfortunate.

The second half was a good deal less frantic than the first. The Corps continued to play attacking rugby but the Gunners' defence remained strong until midway through the half when, following some good second phase possession initiated by the captain **Lt Stewart Sharman**, the ball was moved quickly to the centre where **Capt John Dakin** made a very strong break to allow the other centre, **Sig Neil Sorley** to continue the move with a typically incisive run to score near the posts. **Sgt Trevor 'I've scored in every match so far this season' Keates** converted the try to take the Corps into a narrow 10—8 lead. This turned out to be the final score but only remained so because of very determined defensive work by the Corps.

Final impressions of the game must be based on excellent scrum and line out possession, well distributed by the half backs but leading to frustration due to lack of penetration in the three quarters and failing to look for support. The Corps' defensive work was excellent, particularly in the last quarter when the team was clearly showing signs of fatigue after the high speed start and general high work rate throughout the match. All told a good victory to place before the SOinC and the Chairman of Corps Rugby and always especially satisfying to beat the Royal Artillery at Larkhill.

Team: **Sgt Keates, Cpl Alleyne, Capt Dakin, Sig Sorley, Cpl Fisher, LCpls Harwood, Halliday, Sgt Kessel, Cpls Anderson, Price, Philips, Lt Deans, Lt Sharman (Captain), Sgt George** and **SSgt (FofS) Waites**.

ROYAL SIGNALS V REME
ARBORFIELD 24 FEBRUARY 1988
RESULT: R Signals 4 REME 34

In contrast to the previous game the match was played with a cold wind blowing across the pitch. The pitch was dry but badly rutted after the recent heavy rain.

The REME started the game at great speed and in the first two minutes scored a good try after winning a quick ruck ball and spinning it out to the backs. That was perhaps a sign of things to come in the second half although the REME only managed to score two more penalties in the first half. The half time score was 10—0 to REME. As a result of an ankle injury **Cpl 'Tiny' Philips** was replaced in the second row by **Cpl Dai Treeby**.

After the break the Corps applied some good pressure and came close to scoring both from forward play and with some good back moves. However, the REME defence was strong and their back row, capitalising on their good scrum performance, was always going forward and producing a quick ruck ball for further attacks. This constant pressure led to four more REME tries, all of which were converted. It is a measure of the pressure applied by the REME that all these tries resulted from forcing Corps players to give bad passes or miss tackles rather than individual brilliance by REME players.

The only consolation for the Corps was a try resulting from an incisive break by **LCpl 'Doc' Halliday** who fed on to **Sig Neil Sorley** to score near the posts. The final score was REME 34 R Signals 4.

To sum up therefore it was a disappointing performance but the Corps was soundly beaten by good set piece plays leading to momentum and rapid controlled second phase possession almost exclusively from rucks. The REME took a completely different approach to the game, which was ruthlessly effective and which must be learned and practised by all Corps teams in future in order to compete effectively at Corps level.

Team: **Sgt Keates, Cpl Alleyne, Capt Dakin, Sig Sorley, Matthews, LCpls Harwood, Halliday, Sgt Kessel, Cpls Anderson, Sherman, Lt Deans, Cpl Philips (Sub Cpl Treeby), Lt Sharman (Captain), Sgt George** and **SSgt (FofS) Waites**.

ROYAL SIGNALS V RCT
BLANDFORD 26 FEBRUARY 1988
RESULT: R Signals 48 RCT 6

The game was played on a dry day with a strong cold northerly wind blowing across the pitch, offering no advantage to either side.

The Corps side settled down well and quickly showed the benefit of some hard work put in during training on second phase rucking possession. However, in spite of some good strong attacks it was the RCT who scored the first points from an interception and runaway try. The Corps then steadied and scored three tries before half time through **Sig Charlie Matthews, Cpls 'Chalkie' Atkins** and **Dai Treeby**. **Sgt Trevor Keates** managed to convert the last try to see the first half end with the Corps leading 14—6.

The second half continued in a similar vein with **Cpl 'Chalkie' Atkins** scoring four more tries, **Cpl Dai Treeby** one more and **Capt John Dakin** finally managing to open his tour account after a typical burst through the centre. The size of victory was not as important as the way in which it was achieved. After the bad defeat earlier in the week, the style of play was altered to place far more emphasis on ruck possession and although the RCT were kind enough to allow us to play the type of game we had practised, the quality and speed of possession obtained amply justified the decision and the effort put into the practice session. So in summary it was an encouraging performance that must be built on in future to ensure that the lessons are not lost. The final score was 48—6.

Team: **Sgt Keates, Sig Matthews, Capt Dakin, LCpl Harwood, Cpl Atkins, LCpl Tombs, Lt Kenyon, LCpl Roberts, Sgt Snow, Cpl Sherman, Lt Deans, Cpl Treeby, Lt Cooper, SSgt McIver** and **Lt Sharman (Captain)**.

ROYAL SIGNALS V SALISBURY II
SALISBURY 1 MARCH 1988
RESULT: R Signals 21 Salisbury II 7

This game was played under flood lights on a dry, bone-hard pitch with a strong, cold wind blowing across the ground.

The Corps side started well, particularly in the loose play and line outs, winning good controlled possession. However, the scrums looked unsteady and it was noticeable that both sides had the ability to push the opposition back when striking against the head. The first score after 15 minutes came from a penalty, well struck from 35m by **Sig Charlie Matthews** after Salisbury went offside at a ruck desperately trying to stem the flood of good second phase ruck ball being won by the Corps side. Misfortune overtook the Corps a few minutes later when **Cpl Pete Curtis** had to leave the field with a badly dislocated finger. He was replaced by **Capt Dick Strawbridge**, who previously had done sterling work as coach and now had to show his qualities as a second row forward. This disruption to the pack caused great difficulty with the scrummaging as the Corps was pushed off most of its own ball and could not pressurise the Salisbury scrum. The first half ended with Salisbury putting pressure on the Corps side and scoring a penalty just before the interval to make the half time score 3—3.

The second half started at great pace with **Cpl Jamie Alleyne** scoring an excellent solo effort try to round off a slick passing movement. Ten minutes later **Lt Jim Richardson** battered his way to the posts to score after a miss move and dummy caught the Salisbury defence off balance. This try was converted by **Sig Charlie Matthews**. During the rest of the half, the wings **Cpls Mo Fisher** and **Cpl Jamie Alleyne**, scored two more tries following good line out ball and quick passing to outpace the Salisbury backs and Salisbury got one try back squeezing over in the corner.

The game was characterised by the Corps having good line out possession, in the main due to **Cpl Bob Vowles** and **Cpl Dai Treeby** with some excellent tidying up by **Sgt Bobby Snow** at the front, fully complemented by some energetic rucking and rapid second phase possession with the back row rolling forward. The backs handled well in the cold conditions and were well launched by a good service from **LCpl 'Doc' Halliday** who had a good game varying his play with intelligent kicks and sniping runs. Again an encouraging victory from a team that played well to its strengths and defended solidly. The final result was a victory 21—7.

Team: **Sig Matthews, Cpl Alleyne, LCpl Harwood, Lt Richardson, Cpl Fisher, LCpls Tombs, Halliday, Roberts, Sgt Snow, Lt Whimpenny, Cpls Vowles, Curtis (Sub Capt Strawbridge), Lt Cooper (Capt), LCpl Norman** and **Cpl Treeby**.

Royal Signals Corps Rugby Tour Party February/March 1988

L-R Standing: Lt Col Bill Bowen, Cpl Tiny Philips, Sgt Wally Wallace, Sig Charlie Matthews, SSgt Terry Waites, LCpls Neil Sorley, Nigel Roberts, Lt Dave Kenyon, Cpl Pete Curtis, Sgt Bobby Snow, Capt Pete Stephenson, Cpl Dai Treeby, Lt Graham Deans, Lt Joe Cooper, Sgt Trevor Keates, Capt John Dakin, Cpl Bob Vowles, Capt Dick Strawbridge and Lt Stewart Sharman

Kneeling: Sgt Taff George, LCpls Martin Tombs, John Norman, Cpls Tank Sherman, Mo Fisher, Jamie Alleyne, Phil Price, LCpl Greg Harwood, Lt Dave Whimpenny, LCpl Doc Halliday, Sgt Neil Kessel, Cpl Mark Anderson, SSgt Andy McIver and Cpl Chippy Woods

ROYAL SIGNALS V RE
BLANDFORD 4 MARCH 1988
RESULT: R Signals 9 RE 3

The weather was again very kind, a dry sunny day but with a cold northerly wind blowing across the pitch.

The Corps started the game energetically but some poor touch kicking led to the Engineers applying early pressure and winning a penalty kick for a rucking offence. The Engineers scored from the penalty and so were 3—0 ahead within three minutes of the start.

The Corps side settled quickly after this and it was soon clear that set piece possession from scrums and line outs was going to be provided. This solid platform provided a good basis from which second phase possession was also won and so in general the Corps pack spent the afternoon driving forward to provide good ball for the backs. This driving forward play led to a penalty being awarded and **Sig Charlie Matthews** was able to level the score 3—3 after 25 minutes. Both sides continued to play hard and attempt to play attacking rugby but the game was constantly disrupted by small errors perhaps in part due to the cold wind. This however could not explain the indecisive play in the backs and the lack of penetration although the Sappers did defend very well and their tackling was in the main ferocious. **Capt John Dakin** very nearly crossed for a try after a three quarters move but as so often the last pass was not made and the ball was buried beneath a pile of defenders. So the first half ended with honours even at 3—3.

The second half continued in the same vein with a wealth of possession being seen by the forwards as going to waste, the backs on many occassions failing to reach the gain line. The Sappers rarely looked like penetrating the Corps defence which was particularly strong, one particular tackle by **Capt John Dakin** on the Sapper right wing sticking in the mind as a probable try saver. The high spot of the second half and the match was undoubtedly the brilliant solo effort try by **Sgt Trevor Keates.** He caught a long Sapper clearance inside his own half and ran across the field to link with the three quarters. At about the centre spot he realised that the whole of the Sapper defence was going the same way and so with a sharp change of direction he set off down the left wing brushing aside a few despairing tackles and outflanking the wrong footed Sapper defence to score in the corner. A delightful run which was suitably complemented by **Sig Charlie Matthews'** excellent conversion to give the Corps a winning lead of 9—3. The match finished with a spirited Sapper revival but again good tackling kept the Corps out of trouble.

This was a satisfying result based on the superiority of the Corps team's forward play but the poor handling on occasions and lack of penetration by the backs were disappointing.

Team: **Sgt Keates, Cpl Alleyne, LCpl Harwood, Capt Dakin, Sig Matthews, LCpls Tombs, Halliday, Roberts, Sgts Snow, Wallace, Cpls Treeby, Curtis, Lt Cooper, Sgt George** and **Lt Sharman (Captain).**

TEN PIN BOWLING

THE 21st ARMY TEN PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 21st Army Ten Pin Bowling Championship was held at the Tolworth Bowling Centre in London on 18, 19 and 20 March 1988.

It was a highly enjoyable and successful competition with nearly 300 competitors coming from all over the UK including Northern Ireland, BAOR, Berlin, AFCENT and Cyprus. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and dedication of all the competitors and a reflection of this is shown in the ever improving standard of bowling. This year one tournament and five Army records were broken.

Perhaps now is the time to thank all the Committee members and their wives for the tremendous effort and time that is put into the planning and preparation of this and all the other competitions. A special note of thanks to **WO2 Paul Hankinson** who as secretary (and computer expert) does an immense amount of work on our behalf. To **Capt Dave Steiner,** who has retired as Chairman of the committee this year, many thanks for all your efforts to gain the recognition as an official Army sport that Ten Pin Bowling deserves. To **Maj Bill Fisher,** welcome from us all as our new Chairman.

We were privileged to have the GOC London District and Major General Household Division **Maj Gen C. J. Airey CBE** to present the awards to all the winners. His presence at this year's championship was much appreciated.

Congratulations to all the winners, with special recognitition to the new Masters Champion **Cpl Keith Whincup** who will be retiring from the Army shortly. What a way to finish in his last Army Championship!

RESULTS SUMMARY

Ladies Singles	1 Sgt S. Horton WRAC	870	
	2 Cpl V. A. Bellamy WRAC	781	
Mens Singles	1 **Capt M. Cost R. Signals**	1,051	Army Record
	2 Capt D. Steiner REME	993	
	3 **SSgt J. Selkirk R Signals**	976	
	4 Sgt I. Simpson RAMC	963	
	5 Cpl A. Bland RE	952	
Ladies Doubles	1 Cpl V. A. Bellamy WRAC Sgt S. Horton WRAC	1,384	Tourn Record
	2 Capt C. S. Wells WRAC SSgt D. Curran WRAC	1,157	
Mens Doubles	1 SSgt P. Cousins REME Sgt A. Carr REME	1,573	
	2 Sgt A. J. Duckworth 1 KINGS **Capt M. Cost R Signals**	1,550	
	3 SSgt M. R. Downes RAPC Capt D. S. Steiner REME	1,540	
	4 Sgt A. Hunter REME Capt A. J. Betteridge REME	1,512	
Ladies High Game	1 Sgt S. Horton WRAC	245	Army Record
	2 Cpl V. A. Bellamy WRAC	199	
Mens High Game	1 Capt D. Steiner REME	268	
	2 **Capt M. Cost R Signals**	263	
	3 **Sgt M. Watkins R Signals**	252	
Ladies High Series	1 Sgt S. Horton WRAC	631	Army Record
	2 Cpl V. A. Bellamy WRAC	561	
Mens High Series	1 **Capt M. Cost R Signals**	681	Army Record
	2 SSgt A. Smith RAPC	664	
	3 Capt D. S. Steiner REME	659	
Ladies Trios	1 5' 9"s and a Bit	1,372	
	2 The Worthy Ladies (Asct)	1,201	
Non-Unit Team	1 BAOR Another One	2,862	Army Record
	2 BAOR	2,843	
	3 Pirates Plus	2,781	
Unit Team	1 Marchwood Mil Port	2,590	
	2 SEME A	2,574	
	3 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt	2,554	
All Events Masters Champion	**Capt M. Cost R Signals** **Cpl K. Whincup R Signals**	2,367 1,043	
Runner Up Finalists	Sgt L. Williams RE Capt D. S. Steiner REME SSgt A. Smith RAPC Sgt A. Devenish RA **Capt M. Cost R Signals**		

Maj Gen C. J. Airey presenting Cpl Keith Whincup with the Trophy as Masters Champion

Maj Gen C. J. Airey presenting Capt Mike Cost with trophy as winner of the mens singles in a new Army record of 1,051

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

July 1988

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July 1988 Vol. 42 No: 4

The Wire

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SERGEANT M. WINKLER AND LANCE CORPORAL G. LAMBIE
LANCE CORPORAL W. PATTERSON AND SIGNALMAN M. CLAVEY

We report, with deep regret, the tragic deaths in Northern Ireland of Sergeant Michael Winkler, Lance Corporal Graham Lambie, Lance Corporal Billy Patterson and Signalman Mark Clavey. They were killed together with two other soldiers in a car bomb explosion after taking part in a charity fun-run. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of these NCOs and soldiers in their tragic loss.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

All our readers will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the Birthday Honours List:-

MBE	OBE	BEM
Maj A. J. Briggs	**Lt Col C. D. Gale TD**	**SSgt D. M. Gaffney**
Maj M. J. Dent	**Lt Col E. H. Sambell**	**SSgt J. Sharkey**
Maj G. R. Elliot		**SSgt T. D. Walker**
Maj R. J. Moore (V)		**Cpl D. Carman**
Capt T. E. Hall (V)		**Cpl P. Emerson**
Capt T. C. Spicer		

We offer warm congratulations to **Mrs E. A. C. Bell** on the award of the BEM in the Civil List. **Mrs Bell** has been employed for many years as the caretaker of the TA Centre, 2 Sqn, 39 Sig Regt (V) in Dundee.
Also to **Charles W. Little**, who served in the Corps from 1942-1947 on the award of the MBE. **Mr Little** is currently with The Forces Help Society.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY, 28 JUNE

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, sent the following message to our Colonel-in Chief.
*On the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1988, the Master of Signals and all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals serving and retired, send to their Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** their best wishes and affectionate greetings, and thank her for her interest in and encouragement to her Corps. We very much look forward to the Colonel-in-Chiefs's visits which are a source of inspiration and happiness for all ranks.*

The following reply was received from the Colonel-in-Chief.
I send my thanks to the Master of Signals and all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals, serving and retired, for their kind message of greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day on 28 June and much look forward to my visit to members of the Corps on 2 July 1988 in Dundee.
Anne
Colonel-in-Chief

COVER PICTURE
Our cover picture shows men of 210 (24 Airmobile Brigade) Signal Squadron training for their new role as airmobile troops.

— From our "In" Tray —

ROYAL FRIEND—HM KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN

From Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE

King Hussein is much admired for many attributes, but one, which may be rarely mentioned, is the value he places on friendship and his rare ability, astonishing in one so involved in matters of state, for warming the hearts of individuals he has known.

In April 1981 he was invited by the **Queen** to take The Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst, where his son, **Prince Abdullah**, was passing out. Part of his address on this occasion illustrates his views. He is recalling his own time at Sandhurst:-

'. . . I felt that I had been a part of a team and understood more than at any earlier time, the meaning of belonging to a team. Last but not least, I knew that I had never known such friendships as had grown between myself and colleagues at any stage of my life. Nor will I forget the feelings of appreciation and friendship for all my instructors which went beyond what I felt at any other training establishment of earlier days . . .'.

In the autumn of 1952 I was commanding Inkerman Company at the RMAS. We heard, shortly before the event, that **King Hussein**, already a reigning Monarch, was coming to Sandhurst as a Cadet. It never occurred to me that I would be selected from the distinguished body of 12 Company Commanders to have charge of this important young man. The first clue that I was being considered came one Sunday afternoon when my College Commander rang up to say that the Commandant wanted to know what School I had attended—(Oundle). This and other weighty matters considered, I was told that **King Hussein** would be joining Inkerman Company. In retrospect I can say that I was marvellously lucky in being given this opportunity, from which a lifelong friendship and interest has developed.

At Sandhurst

Gen Horsfield with King Hussein

From time to time there are Cadets who seem to believe that Sandhurst does not really apply to them. At the time there were gloomy people who forecast that our young Monarch would be in this category. How wrong they were. From the start we were told by him and Ambassadors and others responsible for him that he wished to be allowed to play his part fully as a normal cadet. This he did, though his Embassy could not prevent a certain amount of extra work for him on matters of state being referred from Jordan. **King Hussein** was just short of his 18th birthday when he became a cadet. I have since been told by his fellow cadets in my Company that he took the trouble to go round and explain to them that his position demanded no special privileges and that for all purposes at Sandhurst 'he was just one of them'. What remarkable modesty and maturity. No wonder lasting friendships flourished in the atmosphere he created.

Over the intervening 35 years there have been a few occasions when it has been possible to renew friendship, but my story now moves on to 1987. In April my blind brother, **Nigel**, died. Out of the blue, in October, a charming personal letter arrived from **King Hussein** saying how sorry he was to learn of my loss, and finishing by asking if, perhaps, I would like to visit him in Jordan. How was it that someone so busy with national and world affairs and with such wide contacts came to learn of my affairs and then go out of his way to take the special action which he did? The answer can only be that he is a very special person.

The holiday which my wife and I spent in Jordan was the experience of a lifetime. The hilly country with its spring flowers was a delight, and the people of Jordan, old friends and new, made us feel so welcome. Great civilisations have left their mark, and some, like Petra are top features even in world terms. However, the theme of this article is friendship and it must not develop into a travelogue.

Although **King Hussein** was busy visiting countries from Egypt to Pakistan during our stay, he found the time to talk with us of times gone by and to show once again that personal relationships are at all times of great importance to him. He has many admirers both in our country and in the world at large. With the great good fortune which has brought the enjoyment of this personal friendship to my life, I can but say that few people deserve admiration more.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN—WESTMINSTER

This Anglican Church, close by Victoria Main Line Railway Station, Pimlico and St James's Park Underground Stations, is now the Corps affiliated Church in London. The following statement about this link has been agreed by The Parochial Church Council and the Corps Committee.

'After discussions with the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, the Vicar of The Parish of St Stephen with St John Westminster, **The Rev Richard Chartres MA BD**, Gresham Professor of Divinity, the Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council and with the approval of the Lord Bishop of London, the **Rt Rev'd** and **Rt Hon Graham Leonard DD**; it has been agreed that the Royal Corps of Signals, the Royal Signals Association and the Royal Signals Institution should be encouraged to regard the Parish Church of St Stephen with St John Westminster as their official church for religious services and ceremonies, and for other purposes and functions for which a consecrated building may properly be used'.

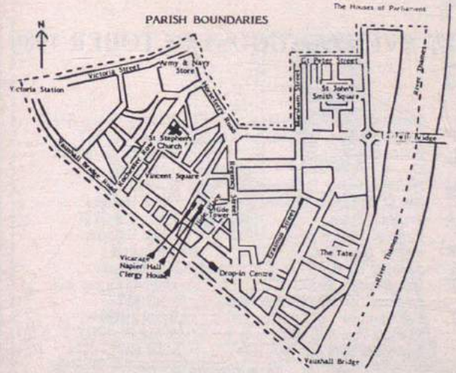
The Church, neo-gothic in style, was opened in 1850. It was part of a development, which included three schools, a Technical College and a soup kitchen, founded by the remarkable philanthropist **Baroness Burdett Coutts**, assisted by her friend **Charles Dickens**. Previously this area had been a notorious, rat infested, slum harbouring every kind of criminal and known as Devil's Acre.

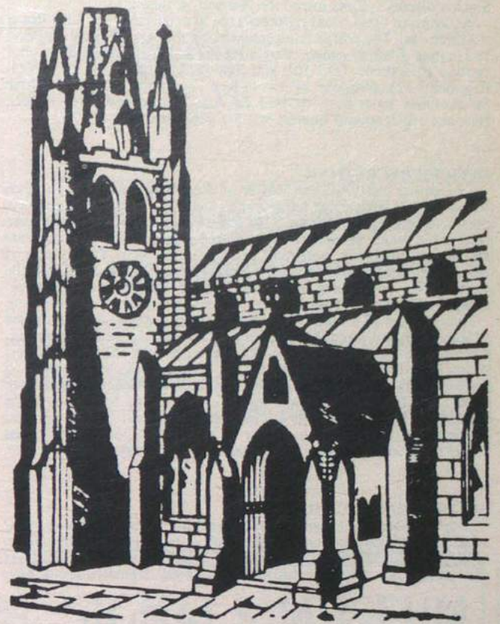
Today, in a very different environment, the Church is actively involved in the life of the community, including several hospitals, and various charitable projects at home and overseas. Work among the elderly residents is of especial importance. There is also a branch of the 'Across Trust' which organises holidays for the disabled, travelling in Jumbulances to the continent.

For those who live in the London area, services are held on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week (1662 and Rite A) and the Church is open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 1200 to 1400 hrs.

Mrs Wendy O'Toole, an ex member of the WRAC who served with Royal Signals from 1963-66 and is a life member of the Association will be happy to provide other information and may be contacted at the Parish Office, Napier Hall, Hide Place, London SW1P 4NJ. Tel: 01-834-0950. The Vicar is the **Rev Richard Chartres MA BD**.

It is hoped that many members will visit 'our Church' where they will be welcomed and that some may wish to become actively involved in its' undertakings.





St Stephen with St John Westminster

SERVICES

Sunday	0800 hrs	Holy Communion (1662)
	0930 hrs	Matins
	1000 hrs	Parish Communion (Rite A)
	1800 hrs	Evensong
Wednesday	0930 hrs	Holy Communion (1662)
Thursday	1230 hrs	Holy Communion (Rite A)
Friday	0730 hrs	Holy Communion (Rite A)

FROM THE FAMILIES OF CORPORALS D. HOWES AND D. WOOD

The families of **David (Bob) Howes** and **Derek (Del) Wood** wish to give thanks for all the tributes received on the tragic deaths of our sons. The letters, cards and flowers brought comfort as well as tears. The media coverage made our loss so much harder to bear, so the support of so many caring people was especially helpful at this terrible time.

Our pride in **David** and **Derek** will never dim. They seem typical of the special breed which make up the Royal Corps of Signals. The general public owe such a huge debt to the ordinary serviceman and letters we received show that debt to be acknowledged. A woman of Dutch origin wrote these words:-

'My native Holland was liberated in 1945 at the cost of many precious lives. Had it not been for British soldiers then, I would not have been born in a free country. I have a lot to be grateful for — then and now. There is none braver, fairer or more compassionate than the British soldier'.

May your task in Northern Ireland be brought to a peaceful end, and may God keep you safe in the administration of your duties.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

This issue's programme of recruiting and publicity events covers the very busy months of August and September. As can be seen, Quicksilver, the Motorcycle and Freefall Parachuting Display Teams and unit RITs will be bringing Royal Signals to the attention of the public at many locations. All the teams welcome opportunities to meet members of the Corps when on tour, so if you can visit a Royal Signals display, please introduce yourself to them.

As we go to press, final rehearsals are in progress at the 1988 Royal Tournament. The Corps is represented by the Apprentices' College, Harrogate, Junior Leaders' Arena Party, RSRE's satellite communications equipment TSC 501 and TSC 505, and by an 8th Signal Regiment contribution to a hi-tech computer display. Three programmes have been devised to demonstrate computer-assisted learning which should interest visiting youngsters.

OFFICER RECRUITING

In October last year, the Master of Signals wrote to every retired Royal Signals officer, to request their help in officer recruiting. He personally signed more than 1,300 letters. Just over 300 replies were received in which several officers offered personal effort in support, and the names of 43 'potential' officers were listed. Twenty-two of these are eligible and could be suitable for commissioning into the Corps. We are hoping that the first of the 'Master's Choice' candidates will soon pass RCB.

Over the last 18 months, there has been an increase in the numbers of signalmen and junior NCOs being put forward for officer selection. Not only have there been more, but they have been identified earlier, which improves their chances at RCB quite considerably. Ideally, a soldier candidate for Young Entry commissioning should be not more than 22 at the Unit Selection Board — he has to be at Sandhurst before his 25th birthday if he wishes to stay with Royal Signals. Incidentally, a sign of the quality of the Corps' young men is the effort made at Sandhurst to get them to change cap badges!

SOLDIER RECRUITING

The increasing employment levels resulting from the upturn in the national economy, reducing numbers of youngsters and the tendency to tertiary education, are all making recruiting more difficult. Over the period April to September 1988 Royal Signals should have recruited 300 adults and young soldiers, but we are unlikely to achieve more than 200. The news is not all bad however; Apprentice, Junior Leaders and Junior Soldier intakes have stood up well so far; let us hope they continue to do so!

SPECIAL RECRUITERS

The first Royal Signals 'Special', **Sgt Twells**, is now on station in South Wales, and the Manning and Record Office has nominated **Sgt Patterson** for Chatham, **Sgt Oatley** for Crewe and **Sgt Mackey** for Darlington. Volunteers are needed for Chelmsford and Exeter.

KAPE

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, 16 and 28 Sig Regt have completed their KAPE tours in North East, Eastern and Western Districts, and a 2 Sig Bde tour will be in progress in July. Each tour has required a different approach but the common factor is that our outstanding young soldiers have won unstinting praise for their representation of the Army and Royal Signals. Rugby fans may like to note 7 Sig Regt KAPE tour of South Wales 16-30 September. In addition to KAPE duties, the team will play five matches against local sides. KAPE team members will get no respite from the RSM during the tour—he is the rugby team coach!

BIRTWISTLE RECRUITING PENNANT

There has been an improvement over previous years in both the quality and quantity of submissions for 1987/88, that is encouraging, but the reports of many units showed a lack of commitment which is difficult to comprehend.

Among the reports of units who pulled their weight in supporting the Corps, two were very good indeed. Although their establishments and roles are very different, they demonstrated just what can be done to support recruiting. After much consideration, the Pennant was awarded to 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn for quite outstanding support of officer recruiting. The Apprentices' College was highly commended for great efforts in support of soldier recruiting. Half a dozen units in BAOR and the UK were really constructive in their approaches, and showed considerable initiative. More performances like that would soon produce the numbers and quality of soldier and officer recruits we need.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS AUGUST-OCTOBER 1988

JUNE

Date	*Event/Location*	*Recruiting Team or Unit*
1-5	Plymouth Gala	Blue Helmets
1-8	Inverness Northern KAPE	White Helmets
1-14	Inverness, Fife, Dundee Northern KAPE	Training Group RIT/ Quicksilver
3-6	Colchester Tattoo	19 Bde RIT
4	Herne, Strode Park Open Day	5 AB RIT
5-7	Southsea Show	5 AB RIT
7-11	Paignton Regatta	30 Sig Regt RIT
8-12	Colchester Brigade Week	19 Bde RIT
9-11	Dundee KAPE	White Helmets
12-13	Shrewsbury Flower Show	White Helmets
13	Torquay, Hospice Fete	30 Sig Regt RIT
14	Luton, Appeal Day	White Helmets
16-19	Glasgow KAPE	Quicksilver
16-21	Glasgow Garden Festival	Training Group RIT
19-22	Shepton Mallet, Mid Somerset Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
20-21	Bolton Show	White Helmets/Blue Helmets
23-25	Stafford, Police Enterprise	Quicksilver
25	Gwent, Monmouth Show	White Helmets
26	Tredegar Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
27	Poynton Show	White Helmets
27-28	Bognor Regis Show	Quicksilver
27-28	Aycliffe Show	Blue Helmets
27-29	East Durham Show	Training Group RIT
28	Andover, Para Regt Association	5 AB RIT
28-29	Eye Carnival	White Helmets
29	Swansea Fete and Gala	30 Sig Regt RIT
29	East Grinstead, Fun Day	5 AB RIT

SEPTEMBER

3	Bradford, Keighley Show	Blue Helmets
3	Dorchester Agricultural Show	White Helmets
3-4	Denby Dale, Pie Event	Training Group RIT
3-4	Stockton, Services Display	Quicksilver
4	Hartley Witney Show	5 AB RIT
4	Clonaver Open Day	40 Sig Regt
4	Stockton, Services Display	White Helmets
6-10	Eastney, Services Display	White Helmets
7-10	Eastney, RM Tattoo	Quicksilver
10	Houghton Le Spring Show	Training Group RIT
10	Grimsby, St Andrew's Hospice	Blue Helmets
11	Lincoln, Ham Festival	Quicksilver
11-12	Cranfield, Bedford Lorry Driver of the Year	White Helmets
13-16	Bognor Regis Butlins	Quicksilver
14	Catterick, English Abrasives Show	White Helmets
15	Thame, Oxford Show	White Helmets
16-30	Wales KAPE	7 Sig Regt
17	Barnstaple Carnival	30 Sig Regt RIT
17	Sandhurst Open Day	Quicksilver
17-18	Newbury Show	5 AB RIT
17-18	Sheffield, Worsbrough Fair	Training Group RIT
18	Gateshead Show	Blue Helmets
19-1 Oct	Berlin Tattoo	White Helmets
20-21	Blandford University Careers Advisors Visit	Officer R and L Staff
24-25	British Auto Cross Championships	Training Group RIT
27-29	HMS *Daedalus*, Gosport Joint Services Display	Quicksilver/Training Group RIT
29	London Glaziers Dinner	Royal Signals Band

OCTOBER

1	Northfield School	Training Group RIT
10-23	NW District KAPE	1 Armed Div HQ and Sig Regt
18-19	Catterick/Harrogate Headmasters and Careers Masters Visit	Soldier R and L Staff

FOLLOW THE DRUM

An exhibition of drums, drummers and drumming in the British Army is being staged at The National Army Museum from 16 June-18 September 1988. The Museum is situated at Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT and is open from Monday to Saturday 1000 hrs to 1730 hrs. Admission Free. Car Parking and Cafeteria.

'Follow the Drum' will include music and audio visual displays, and drums will be available to enable visitors to 'have a bash' themselves!

The exhibition will complement the 1988 Royal Tournament, whose theme this year is the drum.

If you would like to know more contact **Julian Humphrys** 01-730-0717 Ext 216.

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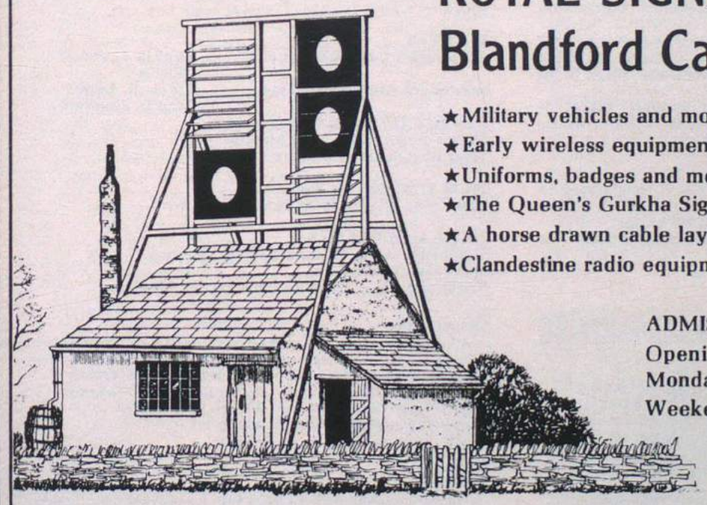

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
Blandford Camp, Dorset

★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

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GAMES CLUB FOR THE WINTER SEASON 1987/88

This Winter Season again shows great strength within the Corps in sport with continued representation and success at Army level both in team and individual events. The most notable successes have been in Association Football with the School of Signals as Army Challenge Cup winners and Army Six-a-Side winners. 16 Sig Regt again excelled in the Wild Water Canoeing as Army Unit Team Champions. 1 Armd Div Sig Regt won the Inter-Service Cross Country Championships and 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn won the Army Minor Unit Orienteering Championships. In Skiing, 22 Sig Regt continued to maintain a high standard with a number of individual successes at Army level and AA Coll Harrogate swept the board winning the Junior Team 5km, 10km and relay events in the UK Nordic Championships. In Archery, AA Coll Harrogate were Army Junior Champions.

Individual successes were achieved in many sports. In Association Football seven players were selected at Combined Services or Army level, **LCpl Cheetham**, School of Signals was elected 'Player of the Match' in the Army Cup Final. In Canoeing **Cpl M. O'Brien** 16 Sig Regt won the Inter-Service Wild Water Ladies KI event and **Capt A. Mann** also of 16 Sig Regt won the Army Ladies KI event. In Cross Country **AT Lester**, AA Coll Harrogate was the Northern Area and Inter-Service Champion. **Sgt G. Backhouse** 14 Sig Regt was selected for the Army Orienteering Squad. Eleven members of the Rugby team played for the Army/Combined Services at various levels while in skiing **Cpl A. Brown** and **LCpl D. Crawford** were both selected for the Army Alpine Team. **LCpl D. Crawford** won the Army Alpine Downhill event. In UK, AA Coll Harrogate swept the board in the Junior UK Nordic Championship events, **JL Barnett** won the 5km and **JL Ward** won the 10km event. In Squash **Cpl T. Pollard** continues to play at Combined Services level. **AT Burke** was Army Junior Champion in Archery.

NOTABLE SUCCESSES—WINTER SEASON 1987/88

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The School of Signals have enjoyed a tremendous season winning the Army Challenge Cup and the Army Six-a-Side competition.

28 Sig Regt were runners up in the BAOR Cup Final against 28 Amph Engr Regt.

The Army Apprentice College Harrogate again won the Apprentice Cup. They are due to compete in the semi-final of the Army Youth Cup against Princess Marina College Arborfield.

The Corps team had mixed success in the Quadrangular Competition beating the Sappers 3—0, losing to the Gunners and drawing 1—1 against REME who were the eventual Competition winners.

Three players represented the Combined Services and Army: **Sgt Brown**, School of Signals; **LCpl Welsh**, School of Signals and **LCpl Cheetham**, School of Signals. **LCpl Cheetham** was also 'Player of the Match' in the Army Cup Final.

Four players represented the Army: **Sgt Edwards**, School of Signals; **Cpl Shergold**, School of Signals; **Cpl Smith**, School of Signals and **Sig Malony**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

BASKETBALL

A good year for Corps Basketball. The Corps team played 11 matches won 8 and lost 3 gaining third position in an Inter Corps League of 9 teams. An improvement from fifth last year.

16 Sig Regt were BAOR winners and runners up to 39 Regt RE in the Army Final.

8 Sig Regt were runners up to RMAS in UK.

CANOEING

The Corps continues to be well represented in this sport. Ten paddlers were selected to represent the Army at the Inter-Service event this year.

ARMY WILD WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS—RICHMOND 1987

Army Unit Team Event	16 Sig Regt	Winners
	28 Sig Regt	Runner Up
Army Ladies KI	**Capt A. Mann** 16 Sig Regt	Winner
	Cpl M. O'Brien 16 Sig Regt	Runner Up
Army Mens KI	**LCpl Dobson** 16 Sig Regt	Runner Up

INTER-SERVICE WILD WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS—SANQUHAR 1988

Ladies KI	**Cpl M. O'Brien** 16 Sig Regt	Winner

CROSS COUNTRY

The Corps has matched its success on the track with its results on the Cross Country circuit.

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt: Inter-Service Championships—Winner.

5 AB Bde Sig Sqn: Inter-Service Championships — Third.

Five minor units qualified for the Inter-Service Championships: 204 Sig Sqn, AA Coll Harrogate, 11 Sig Regt, 249 Sig Sqn and 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn.

Sgt Bailey (1 Armd Div Sig Regt) finished sixth in the Inter-Service Competition.

AT Lester (AA Coll Harrogate) Champion for Northern Area and Inter-Service Championships. **AT Dixon** (AA Coll Harrogate) achieved fourth place.

HOCKEY

The Corps team: Runner up in the Inter-Corps Indoor Tournament. In the Inter-Corps Outdoor Tournament: played four, won one, drew three and lost nil. In the Inter-Corps League to date: played four, won three and drew one. Friendly Matches: played three, won one, drew one and lost one.

ORIENTEERING

The outstanding success has been that of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn winning the Army Minor Unit Championship for 1988. This is the second year in succession that the Corps has produced an Army unit or individual Champion.

Sgt G. Backhouse 14 Sig Regt is the only member of Royal Signals ever to be selected to represent the Army at the Inter-Services Championships and be a member of the Army Squad.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

A very good all round season for the Corps. Played nine, won seven, drew nil and lost two. Points for 171. Points against 70.

Three members played at senior level for Army/Combined Services. Three members played at U21 level for Army/Combined Services. Five members played at Colts level for Army/Combined Services.

SKIING—ARMY AND BAOR RESULTS

It has been another very successful year for Corps Skiing though the coveted Princess Marina Cup won two years ago eluded the Corps this year.

22 Sig Regt

Army Alpine Individual Downhill:	**LCpl D. Crawford** (Winner)
Selected for Army Alpine Team:	**Cpl A. P. Brown** **LCpl D. Crawford**

Won the 3 Div Alpine Championships.
Second overall in the 3 Div Meeting.
Third Position Army Military Patrol Race.

204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Minor Unit Winners 3 Div Nordic Team event.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Minor Unit overall Winners 4 Div Ski Meeting.
Minor Unit Runners Up.
Nordic and Alpine Combination 4 Div Ski Meeting.

SKIING—UK

AA Coll Harrogate achieved a clean sweep in the UK Nordic Junior Championships as overall winner. Individual Event results were:-

Junior Individual 5km	**JL I. J. Barnett**	Winner
Junior Individual 10km	**JL M. J. Ward**	Winner
Junior Team 5km	Winner	
Junior Team 10km	Winner	
Junior Team Relay	Winner	

SQUASH

The Corps Team: ASRA Inter-Corps Championships—Played five, won two, and lost three. The team was placed third in Division one (also the youngest team in 18 teams).

Played three friendly matches against APTC, RCT and AMC—Won one and lost two. The team was the youngest and shows good promise for the future.

Cpl T. Pollard continues to play for the Combined Services Team.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

ARCHERY

AA Coll Harrogate won the Army Junior Indoor Team Championships against five other entries.

Team	
Junior Army Indoor Team Champion	AA Coll Harrogate (Winners)
Individual	
Junior Army Indoor Champion	**AT Burke**

BOXING

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn reached the final of the UKLF Minor Units Novice Grade 3 but lost to 15 Bn RAOC five bouts to two. The Individual results were as follows:-

	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn		15 Bn RAOC
Featherweight	**Sig Gratrick**	Won RSC(2)	**Pte Griffin**
Lightweight	**LCpl Jackson**	Lost Pts(M)	**Pte Ellis**
Light Welterweight	**Cpl Forbes**	Won Pts(M)	**LCpl Christie**
Light Middleweight	**LCpl Langley**	Lost Pts(U)	**LCpl Mumford**
Middleweight	**LCpl Oliver**	Lost Pts(U)	**PteMcCreanney**
Light Heavyweight	**LCpl Bowen**	Lost KO(1)	**Pte Pyett**
Welterweight	**Cpl Udell**	Lost RSC(2)	**Pte Porter**

HAREWOOD CADET DETACHMENT

From Lt V. M. Lawrance ACF R Signals

On Tuesday 5 April 1988 five female cadets and their OC **Lt Val Lawrence** left Wakefield for the Annual ACF visit to BAOR. This was to give the cadets an insight into regular army-life. There was a wide variety of training and visits all laid on especially for the cadets. Both military and civilian subjects were taught and the visits were to civilian places of interest.

Five very enthusiastic cadets met at Wakefield Detachment and joined 38 male cadets who came from all over Yorkshire for the journey to Luton Airport. There they met **2Lt Carole Phillips** and five girls from Dyfed in South Wales, who were also to be guests of 16 Sig Regt in Krefeld.

We landed in Dusseldorf and were met by **Lt Sharon Walker WRAC**. Bradbury Barracks was a short drive from the airport and close to the Dutch Border. The Regiment has been given the Freedom of the Town and enjoys good relations with the local residents.

For the 10 cadets each day brought new skills to learn and old ones to polish-up. Within the first week the cadets had learnt some basic BATTCO, how to drive a left-hand drive landrover, what the LAD does, TOETs of SMG and SLR and climbed all over an F4 Phantom jet. During a visit to 21 Sig Regt at Wildenrath we had a talk from the Heli support team and **Capt Donna Tongarelli WRAC** R Signals explained the Ptarmigan System to 10 bewildered cadets and even more bewildered ACF Officers! This visit was arranged as an education in signalling and the cadets soon had a line of communication from each centre to 'The Switch'.

The weekend brought shopping time, .22 rifle shooting and a visit to Rheindahlen to watch the Inter-Service netball finals, **Cpl Monroe WRAC** spent almost every minute of her time with the cadets and was a great friend to them. Monday was a free day and a trip to the War museum at Overloon was arranged, this had tanks, guns, anti-tank weapons and aeroplanes from WW2 on show outside.

The highlight of the second week was Battlecamp with the Regiment. This was a set of 'stands' where each platoon or section took part in that particular activity. The cadets watched the NBC section run through the 'contamination area' and de-contaminate each other. A sand quarry was taken over for the Army to abseil down and climb up; predictably the cadets took this in their stride and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The two command tasks were a source of puzzlement and controversy between the cadets. Senior Cadet NCO, **Cpl Karen Frost** had her ideas of how to remove a landrover from a six inch deep, mud-filled puddle; but the other cadets eventually proved that 'brawn is better than brain' and removed the handbrake to push it out without the use of the available winch. The second task was to cross a 15ft pool with the ropes and logs provided, but the 'regulars' were already in the process of building a raft which the cadets eventually had a ride on, getting very wet in the process!

The 'Miles' laser weapons were borrowed from the US forces for the Target Identification Stand. This weapon was the SLR with an attachment which triggers a laser beam at a receiver worn by the 'enemy' which when 'hit' sets off an alarm. The cadets watched this in action with interest.

Phantasialand in Brüle was the venue for the cadets' last visit. This is a large pleasure park which afforded the cadets time to unwind after their gruelling Battlecamp. Everyone enjoyed the day out and spent the last of their local money. A lot of free time was spent in the gym with **Cpl Monroe.**

The journey home was tinged with the sadness of parting from friends made in Germany. All the Officers in the Officers' Mess were very kind and welcoming to both **2Lt Phillips** and myself. We flew from Wildenrath to Luton.

To **Lt Col D. J. Lowe, Maj P. S. Jones, Lt Sharon Walker** and **Cpl Monroe WRAC** and all members of 16 Sig Regt I would like to say thank you for your hospitality and stamina in coping with 10 very enthusiastic cadets! Also I would like to thank **Lt Col P. Whitemore, Maj C. P. Donaghy, Capt D. Tongarelli** and **Flt Lt Hewett** of 21 Sig Regt and RAF Wildenrath.

NORTH-EAST SIGNALS BADGED COMPETITION

On Friday 8 April twelve cadets and three adult instructors left Harewood Barracks, Leeds for Ripon Training Camp where they stayed overnight with teams from Towerhurst and Manor Top Detachments.

Saturday 9 April the teams left for Helles Barracks, Catterick Garrison to take part in the newly devised annual Signals-Cap-Badged Competition.

There were six events in total, including assault course, shooting, command tasks, orienteering and a basic signals test. Each team fielded ten members and two reserves, there were nine teams from all parts of North East District. The Competition was organised by 11 Sig Regt and with representatives from 34 and 38 Sig Regt (V) as Directing Staff.

The basic signals test consisted of wire-stripping, telephone setting-up and frequency setting on the PRC 351, not used regularly by the Army Cadet Force.

Harewood Detachment scored 92 points out of a possible 100 points and gained the new Mercury Trophy. The Detachment also won the shooting part of the new competition. Overall the Detachment was placed a creditable third; it was the only mixed team in the competition.

The team was trained by adult instructors from the Detachment, 10 Cadet Training Team, The Army Careers Information Office and **Cpl M. Hardy** of the Detachment's affiliated unit, 49 Sig Sqn, 34 Sig Regt (V). Many thanks to everyone for their help and for valuable time given.

From L to R: Cdts Wilde, Bond, Cpl Frost, Binns, Campbell with Lt V. Lawrance ACF R Signals

— Movements —

Officers

JUNE 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt W. E. H. Adsett	HS School of Signals
Capt C. H. Birchall	HQ NORTHAG Staff
Maj R. C. Brodie	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
2Lt M. C. Burke	HS School of Signals
Capt R. Carty	9 Sig Regt
Lt Col I. J. Crouch	School of Signals
Lt Col M. S. Davies	Shape (BAE)
Maj J. G. T. Doherty	13 Sig Regt
Maj J. McDedgar	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick GAR
Lt Col R. J. Evans	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj F. J. Garrod	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
2Lt G. R. Grant	HS School of Signals
Capt B. Greenwood	7 Sig Regt
Lt N. G. Griffiths	9 Sig Regt
Maj B. Harrison	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt L. R. Harvey	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt E. Heritage	204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Capt D. A. H. Jones	HS School of Signals
Maj N. E. Ladds	Army Pers Selection Gp
Lt D. C. Llewellyn	HQ British Forces Belize
Maj D. M. Martin-Rhind	Army Air Appts (Strike Command)
Brig F. R. Maynard	A DA Appointment
Capt D. R. McClelland	School of Signals
2Lt C. J. McIntosh	HS School of Signals
2Lt L. J. Mitchell	HS School of Signals
2Lt R. L. Munro	HS School of Signals
2Lt E. J. C. Pascoe	HS School of Signals
2Lt S. M. Payne	HS School of Signals
Lt Col E. W. Penny	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
2Lt A. D. J. Picknell	HS School of Signals
Capt D. M. Pratt	8 Sig Regt
2Lt B. M. Pulverman	HS School of Signals
Lt Col M. A. Rice	RMCS
Capt F. P. Roberts	13 Sig Regt
Capt J. Rowley	QG Sig Regt
Lt Col S. M. Siddall	HQNI
Capt T. C. Spicer	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt L. Tanner	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt D. M. Tognarelli	243 Sig Sqn
Lt Col I. Turner	LSP OMAN
Capt T. J. P. Watts	7 Sig Regt
Lt D. G. Wright	22 Sig Regt

JULY 1988

Maj M. J. Anderson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt J. E. Ayers	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt I. Cameron-Mowat	BRIXMIS
Maj G. D. Corbet	233 Sig Sqn
Capt M. Corcoran	28 Sig Regt
Capt A. P. Crane	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt P. G. Cross	14 Sig Regt
Lt M. Davis	28 Sig Regt
Lt Col R. J. Evans	9 Sig Regt
Maj T. G. B. Fish	MOD (DSS(AD))
Capt D. I. Gilchrist	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj J. L. E. Gryspeerdt	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Capt S. Gray-Cowan	BATUS
Capt R. Hannagan	Trg Dep Bde of Gurkhas
Maj P. J. Hryboruk	Northag Air Sp Radio Sqn
Maj M. N. Johnston	MOD (DCGWL(A))
Maj P. J. J. Kington	MOD (DSS(AD))
Capt S. P. R. Lowe	8 Sig Regt
Maj L. J. Plumb	HQNI
Lt Col G. J. Mann	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt R. G. Mather	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt D. R. McClelland	HQ LF Cyprus
Maj A. D. J. McVeigh	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj P. Parfitt	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj G. Powell	8 Sig Regt
Lt R. J. Quinlan	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col A. J. Raper	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj D. J. Robertson	7 Sig Regt
Lt R. N. Seaword	21 Sig Regt
Maj G. M. S. Shipley	MOD (DSS(AD))
Maj J. T. Smith	BDS Washington
Capt A. G. Taylor	HQ Trg GP R Signals
Capt L. Tanner	HQ 2 ATAF
Lt C. J. Thackerey	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj C. R. Urquhart	School of Signals
Lt J. Vlasto	11 Sig Regt
2Lt P. S. Wilkinson	633 Sig Tp
Capt A. J. Wilson	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Lt R. P. Wilson	QG Sig Regt
Lt S. R. Workman	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj C. L. G. Wright	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

WOs and SNCOs

JUNE 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 D. Green	14 Sig Regt
WO2 R. G. Crockhart	640 Sig Tp
AWO2 H. J. Douglas	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 G. Euington	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
AWO2 (FofS) S. C. Fawthrop	School of Signals
AWO2 M. F. Gaffney	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 P. H. Grainger	13 Sig Regt
AWO2 S. Hilton	JCUFI
AWO2 L. S. Hodds	39 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 I. J. W. Little	Liverpool UOTC
AWO2 M. R. Metcalfe	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. C. Sipson	13 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) P. Wilson	242 Sig Sqn
SSgt D. T. Arundel	School of Signals
SSgt (FofS) S. Beverley	Int & Sy Gp (NI)
SSgt J. G. Bincliffe	21 Sig Regt
SSgt I. Knight	RAPC Computer Centre
SSgt N. Grant	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt N. P. Harris	11 Sig Regt Depot
SSgt J. McEwen	Berlin Sig Regt
SSgt R. J. W. McMahon	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt B. J. Palmer	RMAS
SSgt C. H. Smithson	28 Sig Regt
SSgt D. W. Smy	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt K. L. Bennett	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
ASSgt M. P. Hartley	225 Sig Sqn
ASSgt M. J. Kelly	QG Sig Regt
ASSgt T. Malley	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt N. March	HQ Northag Sig Sp Gp
ASSgt A. B. Morton	225 Sig Sqn
ASSgt M. D. Reehal	225 Sig Sqn
ASSgt J. Robertson	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt C. F. Sear	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. M. Stachini	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt P. M. Tait	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt A. M. Tindale	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt R. M. Wilson	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. M. Bell	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt K. C. Burchnall	640 Sig Tp
Sgt J. P. Coster	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Dale	Int & Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt S. Dandy	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. B. Donnelly	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. J. Draper	640 Sig Tp
Sgt A. Edwards	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. J. Edwards	11 Sig Regt
Sgt N. M. Godbold	School of Signals
Sgt M. Godwin	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Hayward	608 Sig Tp
Sgt D. G. Hopcroft	7 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Howland	Berlin Sig Regt
Sgt S. Johnston	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt K. H. Jones	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Sgt K. McGready	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. H. P. Perry	11 Sig Regt
Sgt B. A. Rogers	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt C. Rose	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. Tate	17 CTT Winchester
Sgt C. A. Taylor	11 Sig Regt
Sgt C. G. Warnes	3 RRF
Sgt D. Woolley	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt K. Bagshaw	RAF Mount Pleasant
ASgt M. A. Blakeley	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt S. F. Brealey	21 Sig Regt
ASgt R. L. Dunleavy	11 Sig Regt
ASgt A. Elliott	21 Sig Regt
ASgt T. G. Hagan	13 Sig Regt
ASgt D. B. Marshall	30 Sig Regt
ASgt A. Martin	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt G. Pardew	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt L. Twells	ACIO Cardiff

JULY 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) D. H. Jepson	233 Sig Sqn
WO1 (YofS) P. Tharme	COD Donnington
AWO1 C. R. Ager	34 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 M. D. Boyle	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 R. Brown	39 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 W. B. Dean	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 (YofS) M. L. Drake	2Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 G. L. Hegarty	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) G. C. McAvoy	21 Sig Regt
AWO1 M. OHare	35 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 (YofS) G. Pickersgill	16 Sig Regt
AWO1 D. Z. Tarrant	School of Signals
AWO1 (FofS) T. M. Witts	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 A. N. Fleck	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 (YofS) K. F. Pywell	244 Sig Sqn
WO2 A. E. Tomlinson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 C. Calon	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 A. M. Campbell	SANGCOM
AWO2 R. G. Cartwright	13 Sig Regt
AWO2 C. J. Elder	30 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. J. Fairbairn	21 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) T. Hall	30 Sig Regt
AWO2 K. Hibbert	13 Sig Regt

AWO2 D. A. Hollis — 7 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) P. J. M. Jarvis — 7 Sig Regt
AWO2 E. Marsh — 30 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) R. M. Pemberton — 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) S. P. Sutton — RMAS
AWO2 J. C. Tepielow — Exeter UOTC
AWO2 T. J. Wallis — 259 Sig Sqn
AWO2 (YofS) P. G. White — QG Sig Regt
AWO2 P. A. Woodward — 14 Sig Regt
SSgt B. Grossmith — School of Signals
SSgt J. Lamb — 32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. Meakin — Int & Sy Gp (NI)
SSgt D. Rutter — 633 Sig Tp
SSgt M. H. Yates — 55 Sig Sqn (V)
ASSgt (YofS) J. T. Barnett — Pontrilas Army Training Area
ASSgt (YofS) G. L. Benson — 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) A. R. Campbell — 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt S. Cleary — 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) M. A. Fielding — 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) R. A. D. Jonas — School of Signals
ASSgt (YofS) P. C. Martin — 14 Sig Regt
ASSgt L. Mills — 16 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) P. J. McInally — 22 Sig Regt
ASSgt W. R. J. McIntyre — 227 Sig Sqn
ASSgt (YofS) C. J. F. MacKenzie — 233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt (YofS) I. Nicholson — 21 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) R. K. Perry — 22 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) B. C. Pritchard — HQ 4 Sig Gp
ASSgt (YofS) K. Robinson — SHAPE
ASSgt C. T. Ross — 7 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) K. Sirr — 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) J. W. Walesby — 39 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) B. Williams — 8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Buckingham — 30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Davidson — 259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. D. Elliott — QG Sig Regt
Sgt J. C. Ferris — School of Signals
Sgt P. M. Flint — BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
Sgt P. R. Garside — 13 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Hay — 7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. D. Hurley — 632 Sig Tp
Sgt P. F. Jennings — 7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. I. B. Keith — 242 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. F. Keller — 259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Morris — 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. McHale-Smith — 242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. J. McMahon — AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt S. D. Owen — 244 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Postings — 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt M. B. Roxburgh — 30 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Rumney — 642 Sig Tp
Sgt M. J. Simmonds — 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Walker — 8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. R. Wolveson — 35 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt T. G. Briggs — 39 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt S. Shiels — 21 Sig Regt
ASgt D. G. Simpson — HQ AFCENT Sp Gp

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1988:

All Saints Garrison Church, Blandford	£ 60.00
Mrs I. Harvey	£ 15.80
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
Rev George Paton	£ 10.00
'Gillespie'	£ 10.00
John and Frances Bennett	£ 10.00
Misc	£ 3.95
	£119.75

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1988:

21 Sig Regt	£5,100.00
In memory of Maj Gen J. Woodrow	£ 95.40
AAC/St Albans Church	£ 40.00
Capt V. L. R. Dugdale—in memory of 11th Armd Div Sig Regt colleagues who fell in NW Europe 1944-45	£ 25.00
Lt Col J. T. Rogers	£ 10.00
W. E. Pollitt	£ 7.50
Misc	£ 23.00
	£5,310.90

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

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NOTICES

DEATHS

Allen—Maj C. H. G. Allen—served 1928-65—died 21 January 1988.
Arnott—Capt (Hon Maj) J. E. H. Arnott MBE—died 21 January 1988.
Barry—Maj D. F. D. Barry—died 10 February 1988.
Brader—Lt Col R. W. Brader—served 1944-67—died 28 December 1987.
Brown—Sgt A. E. Brown—died 22 May 1988.
Cowell—Capt W. A. Cowell—died 11 April 1988.
Cross—Mrs J. R. E. Cross—died May 1988.
Hammerton—Maj R. E. H. Hammerton—died 2 February 1988.
Harris—SSgt T. W. Harris—died 3 May 1988.
Henniker—ex Sig Colin Henniker—served 1978-87—died 4 June 1988.
Houghton—Mrs Mary Houghton, widow of WO2 Ron Houghton—died 2 May 1988.
Leyson—Maj W. M. S. Leyson—served 1941-58—died 24 March 1988.
McIntosh—Capt W. G. McIntosh—died 19 March 1988.
Mileham—Capt G. E. Mileham MBE—died 5 April 1988.
Morrison—Mrs E. M., wife of Maj Gen A. E. Morrison CB, OBE—died 26 June 1988.
Murray—Capt N. F. Murray—died 3 February 1988.
Nicks—Maj W. J. A. Nicks—served 1916-28 and 1933-47—died 20 May 1988.
Orton—Maj P. E. Orton—served 1924-58—died 21 June 1988.
Paris—Maj A. G. Paris—died 27 November 1987.
Rowe—Capt (Hon Maj) T. J. Rowe—died 25 February 1988.
Robertson—Maj J. E. Robertson—died 5 March 1988.
Saunders—Mrs A, wife of Maj T. P. Saunders—died 25 May 1988.
Shrewsbury—Sig C. V. Shrewsbury—died 20 May 1988.
Stephens—Mrs Ruth Stephens, wife of Maj P. J. W. Stephens—died 7 May 1988.
Walmsley—ex WO2 (FofS) R. Walmsley—served 1958-69—died 22 June 1988.
Warren—Mrs E. E. Warren, widow of Maj W. Warren MBE—died 22 May 1988.
Webb—Lt Col R. Webb—served 1928-54—died 19 June 1988.

OBITUARIES

Harrod—WO1 (SC) Derek Gerald (Del) Harrod. WO1 Harrod was born on 20 November 1944 at Terrington-St-Clements in Norfolk and joined the Corps at Catterick on 29 May 1962 as a clerk.

His first posting was to Aden in 1963 where he gained promotion to LCpl, received the General Service Medal 1962 with Radfan clasp.

In January 1966 he was posted to the Junior Leader Regiment, Royal Signals at Denbury in Devon and in February the following year married **Connie**. At Easter that year, he was one of the first soldiers sent to assist in the action concerning the Torrey Canyon oil tanker disaster which went down between the Isles of Scilly and the Cornish coast.

Prior to the closure of Denbury in 1967 he was promoted Cpl and subsequently posted to 28 Sig Regt in Krefeld where two years later in 1970 he became Orderly Room Sergeant.

After a tour in 259 Sig Sqn, Cyprus between May 1971 and May 1973, he was posted to HQ 5 (Airportable) Bde and Sig Sqn, Tidworth as SSgt, Chief Clerk, until May 1976 when he joined 4 Comms Unit, Cheltenham as a WO2. During this tour he received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1978.

On posting to 7 Sig Regt at Herford in March 1980, he was promoted to WO1 (SC). It was from there that he came to Catterick in September 1984 as Chief Clerk in Headquarters Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison.

Those who knew him latterly will know of his keen and enthusiastic pursuit of caravaning, as a committee member, in the local club in Catterick. He was also a keen member of the Buffaloes. His reliable and sound support in the Headquarters, his close involvement with the Royal Signals Association, and his loyal support to the Corps endeared him to many who knew him and were privileged to serve with him. After an extended illness, he died on 5 May 1988 leaving his widow **Connie**, daughter **Michelle** and two sons **Conan** and **Craig**.

Heptonstall—Capt Arthur Heptonstall enlisted in the TA in May 1913 as a sapper in the Northern Telegraph Company RE. He transferred to the regular army in 1915 in the Royal Engineers and shortly afterwards he joined the BEF in France and later moved to 25 Signal Company. He went on the reserve in 1919.

Re-enlisting in 1925 he served with units attached to the RAF and reached the rank of CQMS. Recalled in 1939 he went to France and was in the evacuation of the BEF June 1940.

Now RQMS, he was posted to Middle East L of C Signals in January 1942. He was granted an Emergency War Commission as QM a year later and with PAIFORCE, saw service in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Persia. His active service ended in October 1945.

So **Arthur** was already 'old and bold' to most of us when the TA was reformed in 1947. Resident in Leeds, he became a staunch supporter of the old 49 (West Riding) Sig Regt (TA) and a regular attender at all Old Comrades functions. He was President of the Royal Signals (Leeds) Retired Sergeants Association in 1955 and at the March 1987 annual dinner of that Association there was an appropriate celebration marking his 92nd birthday. Sadly he died suddenly a week later.

Left a widower many years ago, **Arthur** kept in close touch with his son in Leeds and at least once a year paid visits to his two daughters both resident in Canada. He was always cheerful and for his age remarkably fit and active. He is a very sadly missed old soldier.

Houghton—Mrs Mary Hougton died at Bakewell, Derbyshire on 2 May 1988 aged 55 years. She was the widow of the late **WO2 Ron Houghton** who served in the Corps from 1949 to 1968.

Jacobs—Ex SSgt (SQMS) J. R. Jacobs. It is with much sadness and deep regret that we at the School of Signals report the sudden death of **Jim Jacobs** who died peacefully in Poole Hospital on 2 June 1988 very suddenly aged 66 years.

He served 28 years in the Corps and until his retirement in December 1986 worked for the QM (Tech) at the School of Signals. **Jim** was an excellent tradesman and soldier and will be much missed by all his many friends in the Corps. We offer our condolences to his son **Brian** who is currently serving as a Sergeant with 5 Orn Bn RAOC, BFPO 16 in BAOR.

Johnstone—Cpl Neil William Scott Johnstone, the only child of **Mr** and **Mrs Thomas Johnstone** of Perth, Scotland, was killed in a road accident whilst returning to Catterick on 2 May.

Neil was born on 27 January 1962 and had always been of an adventurous nature. He had in turn been a Wolf Cub, Scout and a Cadet in the ATC. When he left school he initially went into insurance but after four years he decided he wanted more out of life and he joined the Corps on 19 May 1983. During his first tour with a field unit, 21 Sig Regt, **Neil** quickly made sure he went down to the Falklands. Whilst detached to one of the more remote islands, he showed his considerable artistic skill in fashioning a cross from driftwood for the celebration of the Easter Service. In March 1987 **Neil** was posted from 21 Sig Regt to the School of Signals. Later in 1987, by then a Technical Storeman Class 1, he volunteered and was selected to join the Royal Signals Demonstration Team.

Neil was a hardworking, conscientious NCO, who knew his job and was good at it, but more importantly he was a thoroughly likeable and modest young man with a pleasant sense of humour and was ideally suited to this small tightknit unit. He was a very keen footballer and kept himself very fit indeed. He had an abundance of guts and determination and only a week before his death he had successfully completed the Dundee Marathon, his first, in the splendid time of 3 hrs 29 mins.

Having tried and enjoyed sport parachuting, **Neil** had volunteered to become the drop zone controller for the Royal Signals Parachute Display Team, the Blue Helmets, a position where he had to make decisions as to the suitability of weather conditions and other safety aspects. His calm efficiency quickly earned the trust and confidence of the Team. So as well as being the Storeman to the White Helmets and Quicksilver, **Neil** had become a vital member of the Blue Helmets. No doubt his zest for adventure, courage and physical fitness would soon have resulted in his jumping with the Team.

Neil's funeral took place at Craigie Parish Church with the RSDT providing the bearer party. A Memorial Service was held at Catterick at the same time. The enormous crowd of family friends present at his funeral was a testimony to the affection and esteem that this young man had earned in his all too short life.

Neil's tragic and untimely death came as a great shock to us all, and we offer our deepest sympathy to his parents on the devastating loss of their son.

Parkinson—LCpl Ross Andrew Parkinson. It is with deep regret that 7 Sig Regt reports the tragic death of **LCpl Ross Parkinson** in a road traffic accident on Sunday 8 May 1988. **Ross** joined the Corps in July 1983 and served in the Junior Regiment until moving to 8 Sig Regt in June 1984 where he completed his training as a Radio Relay Operator.

He joined 7 Sig Regt in January 1985 and served with 2 Sqn where he proved to be an excellent tradesman, soldier and sportsman. He will be sadly missed by his many friends in the Regiment. We offer our sincere condolences to his parents and friends.

LOST

A 1954 silver and enamel Garrards 'Jimmy' ladies brooch was lost during the Corps Luncheon on 18 June 1988. Would the finder please return it to **Maj (Retd) E. T. Bolt**, 1 Riley Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG3 4UX, (Tel: 431971).

PERSONAL

We offer congratulations to **Maj L. H. Dutton** on his installation as Mayor of the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. **Leslie Dutton** served in the Corps from 1940 until 1969.

Ex SQMS **J. C. E. Prentice** would be pleased to hear from any members who served in 4th Ship's Signal Section, Combined Operations, in 1944-45. The section served in HMS *Lothian* in the Pacific and in HMS *Persimmon* in SE Asia. Please contact him at 163 Stirling Drive, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 3AT.

REUNIONS

APPRENTICES COLLEGE HARROGATE SCOTT SQUADRON REUNION

On the weekend of 26/27 November 1988 there will be a reunion of Ex Apprentices and Permanent Staff who served in Scott Sqn during the period 1978-80.

The reunion is to be held at the Apprentices College.

For further details please write to: Second in Command, Scott Sqn, Army Apprentices College, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HE3 2SE.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER 16 SEPTEMBER 1988

The OWA Reunion Dinner will be held at Headquarters' Mess RAOC Blackdown on Friday 16 September 1988. Anyone wishing to attend should contact: **Capt A. C. Walker REME**, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN. Telephone: 0909 476326 or 0623 846327 (Evenings), as soon as possible but definitely before 3 September 1988. 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 19.30 hrs for 20.00 hrs. The cost will be approximately £12 per head and accommodation is available on request.

HORA HENA AND EKALA

Anyone who was stationed at the above named camp from 1947-1950 is invited to get in touch with **Mr A. Wallis** with a view to organising a small reunion. In the hope that names might jog memories, **Harry Moore**, **Ron Bassam** and **Ron Brunt** are asked to help spread the word. Please write to **Alec Wallis**, 27 Brookwood Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 4HB or **Harry A. Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG. (Tel: 0533-375423).

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, NETLEY—3-9 JULY 1989

On the shore of Southampton Water at Netley stood the first purpose-built, and most imposing, Military Hospital in England.

Built in the 1850-60s, it provided nursing care for more than 100 years. In 1966 the main hospital building was demolished leaving only the Chapel standing, and in 1978 the Army finally departed.

Hampshire County Council now owns and manages the site as a Country Park. The Chapel has become the focal point of the Park's activities with an exhibition illustrating the history of the hospital.

The interest shown by very many visitors to the Park has led to the planning of a reunion of all the many staff and patients associated with the hospital over the years.

It is proposed that the reunion will include:-

Military Tattoo and Fireworks
Military Bands
Static Displays
Dinner Dance
Parade—Drumhead Service and March Past
Outings to local places of interest

Further information will be available when all events are confirmed.

Any ex-staff or patients interested in attending should contact as soon as possible: **Lt Col (Retd) D. J. Finlayson**, c/o Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey, Southampton SO3 5GA. Telephone 0703 455157 or 0703 452451.

VENRAY AND OVERLOON PILGRIMAGE

This year the Pilgrimage will leave London at 0800 hrs on Thursday 3 November by coach and return there on Tuesday 8th, arriving at 2030 hrs approx. The Pilgrimage is limited to widows and former widows but those who have remarried are able to have their husbands accompany them. The men will be asked to pay for their return ferry fares from Sheerness to Vlissingen where the party will be met by the hosts who will provide transport to Venray and will be accommodated without charge with local families.

Bookings for the boat and overnight stay in London will be arranged in order to obtain party rates. Should you wish to take part in this Pilgrimage, and are eligible to do so, please write to **Mrs Iris Strange**, Hon President/Secretary, British War Widows and Associates, 40 Lime Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1DR.

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

LETTERS

From: Maj (Retd) Don Banham

Dear Sir,

I was very interested in the recent letters, regarding 'Unique Records' and wondered if I could stake a claim to lengths of service, as follows:-

Self 34 years, sons **Ted** 28 years and still serving (14 Sig Regt), and **Don** 12 years. Brother **Joe** 15 years Sarafand and 'Y' services; twin brother **Den**, 15 years. Total service in the Corps to date, 104 years.

The remainder of the family chose the Senior Service, to serve their country as follows: Brothers **Bill**, Lt RN, 34 years, aircraft carriers. **Charley**, CPO, 30 years, subs and mine sweepers. **Frank**, CPO, 32 years, destroyers. One sister, **Edith**, who was in ATS for 5 years. Total service to date, 205 years.

My other brother **Harry**, was employed with the NAAFI for 45 years, starting as delivery boy at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, and finishing as Area Manager Northern Command. He still enjoys life in Scotland, at the age of 84, and wonders if there are any old timers still around, who remember the Shanghai and Peking days of the late 1920s. If so, he would very much like to hear from them.

Yours sincerely
Don Banham

4 Northcroft Villas
Englefield Green
Surrey
TW20 0DZ

PS. Oh yes, then there's my father. Served 16 years in Kitchener's army, 19th Hussars.

From: Maj C. P. Donaghy

Dear Sir,

I noticed the letter from **Lt Col (Retd) W. C. Lombard** in the May issue. I feel I also have a challenge to this record.

Stan Donaghy joined as a boy soldier with the Royal Engineers in May 1913 at the age of 15 years. He served with RE Signals and Royal Signals until 1936, during which time he saw service in England, Ireland, Palestine, Egypt, Germany, France, Belgium, Turkey and India. He was recalled to service in 1939 and was soon back to Egypt, Crete, Palestine, Lebanon, North Africa and Italy. He left the Army for the second time in about 1945.

Max Donaghy joined RE Signals in 1915 and died in service in 1946 having served in Ireland, Archangel (with the North Russian Relief Force 1919), Egypt, India and Ethiopia.

Barney Donaghy served in the Royal Signals from 1922 to 1934 in Germany and India. (He saw further service in the Second World War but this time not with the Corps).

Pat Donaghy (my father, younger brother of **Stan**, **Max** and **Barney**) joined Royal Signals in 1932 and saw service in India, Italy, Kenya, Malaya, Norway and England. When he retired in 1968 he continued in service at 2 Sig Gp Aldershot until his death in 1976.

Christopher Donaghy. I enlisted in Royal Signals on 11 September 1967 and am still serving. However I have only been to Germany, Northern Ireland and England!

I believe my family's record stands at 75 years unbroken service and an aggregate of 129 years providing communications for the Army.

Yours faithfully
Christopher Donaghy

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

From: ex Sgt H. P. Livemore

Dear Sir,

With reference to the photograph of 3 Troop, 1 War Office Signal Section published on page 323 in the May issue of *The Wire* I was called up from the reserve in August 1939 and sent to a high speed radio telegraphy course at the Chief Signal Office of the GPO in London. Later, three of these high speed stations were sent to France—myself to Arras—but some of us were recalled to UK at the end of 1939.

We were to form the nucleus of War Office Signals. We were scattered about the country until we were installed in a building 60ft under Whitehall.

Sgt Richards and **Sgt Camp** and I were in charge of the three shifts on a 24 hour watch. I can safely say that I was a founder member of War Office Signals.

I remained there until 1944 when **Sgt Richards** and I were transferred to Catterick/Scarborough as instructors in HSRT to new intakes, men and ATS. We also trained the Royal Navy and American Army signallers. I remained in this posting until I left the army in 1945.

I send best wishes to all former friends, especially **Maj Hunt** and **Capt Symington** and hope everyone is well. I am now 81 years old and still going—strong!

Yours faithfully
Harold P. Livemore

1 Victor Cottage
Long Hill Road
Chavey Down
Ascot NL5 8RQ
Tel: Winkfield Row 882970

From: S. J. Morris

Dear Sir,

I was a member of the Corps (1934 to 1946) and am now 72 years of age.

Quite recently my son came across a copy of *The Wire* dated August 1935! I have now read and re-read it from cover to cover with the greatest delight. Many of the names mentioned do bring back happy memories. Some of those mentioned may well have passed on but hopefully many of my 'Vintage' will still be around; to them I say Good Health, Good Luck and happy memories.

Yours truly
S. J. Morris
One-Time B Cable Section (Horsedrawn)
2 Div Signals, Aldershot

8 Wainrights
Long Crendon
Bucks HP18 9DT
Tel: 208063

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

NOTES FROM THE OPERATIONS ROOM

The 'what shall we go on with now' centre of the Squadron is currently manned by **Capt Nigel Wood** (2IC) and **WO2 (YofS) Chris Aitken**.

The creation of 3 Inf Bde radio nets is having its effect on 'The Room's' work load. Regular frequency changes and the need to adapt 39 Inf Bde nets to suit the new users have kept both occupants working late (well, at least later).

On a more credible note the building of a new Commcen and Ops Office is going well. The PSA even hopes to hand over the main rooms early! Nevertheless much work remains to be done by technicians, BT and others before we get the whole operational.

Finally a note of congratulations to **WO2 Chris Aitken** and his wife **Wendy** on the birth of their twin sons on 21 May. **Ayden** and **Brian** are doing well.

ROVER GROUP

The usual quota of green crews into West Belfast, and security patrols for Beating Retreat ceremony has kept the Group on the go.

Week two of Battle Camp turned out to be an experience to remember with the skies permanently open and getting one third of the Squadron completely saturated. This as everyone can imagine, raised the morale of the boys incredibly. During the escape and evasion exercise **LCpls Nick Baker** and **'Wilf' Williams** decided it would be fun to jump from the Bedford. What they didn't consider was that it was still moving at 30 mph; one suffered a badly cut knee and the other a severely dented pride—a lucky escape.

RADIO SECTION

We have lost **LCpls Jon Chivers, Alec Meston** and **Sig Kev Rowe** to 3 Inf Bde. Meanwhile congratulations to **LCpl Payne** on his recent promotion. **LCpl Pete Clark** has joined us from Rover Gp via his RSDCC.

The section was involved in the security for the ceremony of Beating Retreat as Hillsborough. Heli-Tele was deployed recently to North Queen Street in West Belfast manned by **LCpl Mayled** and **Sig Harding**. Other recent events include the decision making on the correct wording for the notice of the confidential telephone number on the 'green' vehicles. It was revealed a short time ago that the section used the entire supply of green and red paint in the Brigade's TAOR.

We must mention the fact that **Lt Beard** has now left the Troop and we wish him well.

COMMCEN/SYSCON

Over the past two months Squadron commitments such as the annual Battle Camp, external security tasks, and athletics together with postings, courses and the odd spot of leave, have created a few manning problems for our departments.

Shifts have been running with three operators which has made the long days and nights ('without drops') pass quickly. Some of us mere mortals had little enough time to draw breath much less meet the PT aspirations of **SSgt Mike Hendley**. However our taskmaster appreciated all our hard efforts during this sticky period, giving us the news that 'we still have to remain flexible'.

Farewell (and thanks) for all your hard work to go **LCpls Howard** and **George Green** who leave us via 321 EOD Coy for 3 Inf Bde. A special farewell must go to our beloved stalwart old knacker **Cpl Booth** who has finally managed to escape the province (after spending his entire career here, so far) for Berlin—keep sweeping and painting the wagons **Bobby** boy, Syscon and Commcen will miss you.

Hello and welcome go to our recent new arrivals **Cpl 'Shakey' Shakespeare** and **Sig 'Jock' Andrew**, we hope you enjoy your time with us. Congratulations go to **Sig Booth** on his recent marriage to **Linda** and to **Cpl George Best** and **Sara** on the birth of a son, **Nicholas.**

Finally we say welcome back to LCpl Graham Tait, Sig Kieron Lavery and **Ian Green** who didn't manage the quick getaway they expected to 3 Inf Bde—their postings were cancelled as Records sent some fresh blood to Armagh. Remain flexible lads!

EXERCISE IRON CIRCLE 1988

The Squadron's annual battle camp was held in the scenic surroundings of the Isle of Man over the period 15-28 May. Over half of the Squadron took part with the DS **Lt Beard, WO2 (RQMS) Payet** and **Sgt Waldron** exerting complete control, especially on the escape and evasion phase!

The exercise was split into two one week training programmes during which members of the Squadron were given instruction and practised in various military skills ranging from setting up patrol harbour areas to the setting of an ambush.

WEEK 1

On the evening of the first day came the dreaded first O group during which the Section commanders became aware of the fact that a long night tab (tactically) was on the cards. Amidst the gloom that had descended on the boys, we set off on what turned out to be a blistering walk. On reaching the FRV and waking up **Sgt Waldron**, we moved at first light as a platoon into a harbour area. Gonk was on the cards, but alas no! The morning brought news from the IO **((RQMS) Payet)** that the enemy was planning to lift arms from a disused quarry. Immediately an OP was sent out and news came back that several 'Manx Freedom Fighters' were in the vicinity. The ambush that followed proved to be successful in its aim, totally suprising the MFF.

The following day recce patrols were sent out to conduct a detailed search of the TAOR. On returning, one of the patrols reported the enemy gathering in two small derelict buildings south of the position. Reacting quickly and effectively, the platoon again managed to overcome its opponents by putting in a devasting fighting patrol, which filled the valley with smoke and noise. The platoon returned to the harbour area and just as soon as the boys were settled in, we were attacked. On moving hastily to the ERV, We were captured and taken back to Jurby. Thus the escape and evasion phase started, during which six members were caught, two managed a night in a guest house and the remainder slept in toilets and on the beaches.

The second week followed in the same vein but, accompanied by steady cooling rain, caused much discomposure to those concerned.

A night of relaxation was overdue on both final evenings and, 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn performed to full effect, despite being tired and anticipation of returning to the Province.

NISAAM 1988
Report by LCpl D. Gemmell

The shooting team, after months of serious practice, (but not as a team!) took part in the annual Northern Ireland Skill-at-Arms Meeting recently. The team consisted of **Capt Andy Smith, LCpls Vince McNaught, Archie Gemmell, Joseph Killen** and **Pte Peter Graham**.

Thanks must go to those who organised the event and to the people who had faith in the team supporting us to the end. It was a proud and enjoyable moment when **LCpl McNaught (Vince)** accepted the trophy on behalf of the Squadron from the GOC. 233 Sig Sqn won the remainder of the competition so we had a Signals white-wash over the rest. Well done lads!

225 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OC	**Maj J. D. Heck**
Ops Offr	**Capt D. G. Wills**
AO	**Capt C. T. Honor**
SSM	**WO2 D. Cox**
RQMS	**WO2 W. Gordon**
CC	**Sgt C. Ibberson**

Wednesday 16 March 1988 marked the reforming of 225 Sig Sqn in Thiepval Bks, Lisburn, Northern Ireland. The Squadron consists of Echo Tp 233 Sig Sqn plus a considerable number of other personnel.

At an informal ceremony attended by **Lt Col Martin Roberts** Comd Comms, **Maj Peter Parfitt** OC 233 Sig Sqn and the new OC 225 Sig Sqn **Maj Jim Heck** the GOC Northern Ireland **Lt Gen Pascoe** unveiled the Squadron sign. This was followed by a tour of the unit by the GOC where he was updated on the role of the unit and talked to many of the younger tradesmen.

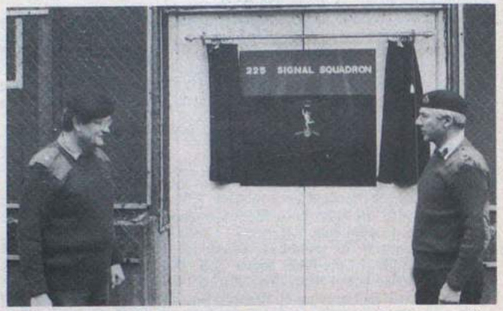
The final parting of the umbilical cord between 233 Sig Sqn and Echo Tp took place during the lunchtime in the Peake Inn in traditional fashion. Comd Comms presented both Signal Squadrons with suitably engraved pictures marking the occasion. One of the high points of the day was the generous donation from the coffers of 233 Sig Sqn to the new unit enabling 225 Sig Sqn to start life on a firm financial footing. We are extremely grateful to **Maj Peter Parfitt** for his assistance and support during the period when the Squadron tentatively took its first steps during 'independence week'.

In the evening **WO1 John Carr** and his committee organised a superb social function in the local UDR hall and a surprise guest was **Lt Col Clive Arthur** who, after a typically humorous speech, presented **Maj Heck** with a sculptured figure of a squirrel, the old Echo Tp symbol. This beautiful gift is temporarily resident at the home of **WO2 (SSM) Taff Cox** where his good lady **Lesley** affectionately dusts him down daily, before his move to more permanent accommodation in the new 225 Sig Sqn building, which should take place during June 1988.

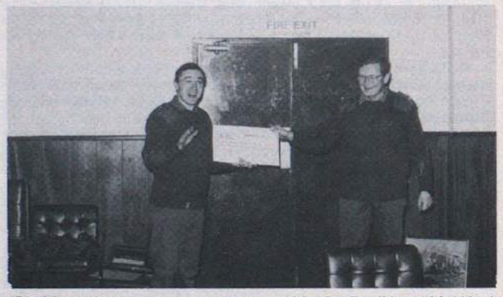
So ended the first day of the new Signal Squadron. Following that, life returned to normal with the unit getting to grips with handling its own affairs.

GOC addressing the new Signal Squadron in the Peake Inn; in the background the SSM and OC both wonder what they have taken on

Comd Comms presenting OC 225 Sig Sqn with the formation picture



GOC and OC 225 Sig Sqn at the completion of the unveiling ceremony



'Big Money' changing hands between Maj Parfitt *(L)* and Maj Heck

The handover of Echo Troop to 225 Sig Sqn Commander *(L to R)*: Capt Wills, GOC, Comd Comms, Maj Heck. On far right Maj Thorpe

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj P. Parfitt**
2IC	**Capt I. D. Westerman**
AO	**Capt J. Hindle**
AAO	**Lt F. M. E. Thomas WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) P. McD Watson**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) R. Coleman**

SUMMER FETE

It appears to have become somewhat of a tradition with 233 Sig Sqn to hold a fete annually, on the first Saturday in June. This coincides with the visit to the Province of the Corps Band. Their appearance at the fete certainly added an air of authentic grandeur to the occasion. This year the theme was cartoon and pantomime characters: the familiar faces of Mickey Mouse, Dumbo the elephant and Robin Hood adorned the entrance. These were all painted by **Cpl Ned Kelly** who has an obvious flair for this sort of work. **SSgt Charlie Abbott** constructed most of the castle and diligently worded a whole variety of necessary signs.

Throughout the afternoon, there was little excuse for being hungry or thirsty. Irish coffee was for sale from some of the seven dwarfs, formerly **Sgt Gill Summers, LCpl Andy Garvey** and **Pte Julie Grainger** and also **LCpl Dawn Painter** who was there in the guise of running a Teddy Bear stall.

The ever popular Beer and Bratties were once again on sale in the care of **Sgt McAlroy** and his many helpers. **Sgt Karen Wooding, LCpl Euni Boulder** and **Pte Tracey Cooper** managed to sell in the region of 200 hot potatoes; their traditional approach of shouting at passers-by obviously worked a treat. How many they consumed themselves nobody will ever know! The bottle stall, run by **Sgt Len Munday**, Tech Tp, has to be congratulated on making an overall profit in excess of £300. This was closely followed by the Beer and Bratty stall which also made an enormous profit.

The prize for the best costume was awarded to **Sig 'Beef' Berger** and **Cpl Gaz Warn** from India Tp, mainly for ingenuity. They spent the whole afternoon wearing mops on their heads depicting Dennis the Menace. This seemed particularly apt as they were running a 'Smash the Piggy Stall'.

The fete was attended by members of Fleming Fulton School, a local school for handicapped children which the Squadron has chosen to be one of the beneficiaries of the fete profits.

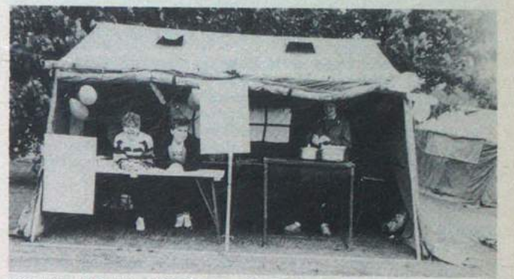
LCpl Davis (225 Sig Sqn), **Sig Tony Riley** and **Sig Bob Goldsmith** acted as hosts to Fleming Fulton for the afternoon. By all accounts they had a great time and appeared to do particularly well on the bottle stall.

Commcen Tp ran an 'It's a Knockout' competition with participants from most Units within the Garrison. Unfortunately the Squadron did not win but the fun was enjoyed by both the competitors and audience alike. Few escaped without a dunking of some kind!

By all accounts it was a very good day and the profit made was over £2,500. Every penny of this will be divided amongst the charities chosen by the Squadron.

Members of Tech Troop prepare for the opening of the Fete (SSgt Charlie Abbott plus two new arrivals!)

In an attempt not to frighten away the children the girls of Commcen Troop covered their faces



LCpl Euni Bolder, Pte Tracey Cooper and Sgt Karen Wooding display their charms on the baked potato stall

COMMCEN TROOP

TROOP MANAGEMENT

Tp Comd	**Capt J. O. S. Vannan**
2IC	**WO1 (YofS) R. L. Secker**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt S. T. Wise**
CDA	**SSgt A. Arbuckle**
Stats	**LCpl D. A. Painter WRAC**

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER OF TRAFFIC OFFICERS

April saw the arrival of the new Traffic Officer/Troop Commander, **Capt Stan Vannan** from 4 Sig Gp vice **Capt Allan Dunbar** (Taff to all old soldiers). After a hectic week of visits/parties and the odd bit of work **Capt Dunbar** left for the sunny climate of Cyprus.

During his second tour in the Province he has steered a sometimes sinking ship through previously uncharted waters to calmer seas. He will be remembered by all who have served in the troop during this period for the only person to fit in Golf, Basketball, Rugby, Hockey, Athletics, the odd bit of work and his leave in such a short tour. Both **Allan** and **Yvonne** will be missed by all ranks and we wish them all the best in their second tour of Cyprus. We welcome **Capt Stan Vannan** to the troop and hope he enjoys his tour back in his homeland.

LINE AND RIGGING SECTION

We are a very busy section at the moment and there are so few of us. As Sir Winston once said 'Never in the . . . etc'. Let me introduce you to them: **Sgt Dave Boyle, Cpl 'Scouse' Bradley, Cpl John Jolly, LCpl Colin Usher** and **LCpl Jim Kerr**. All of these commanded by **Sig Sid Steel**. That's all of us. We are of course the people who take what the techs want and make it happen! That's why we're so busy.

RADIO SECTION

The section continues to function well despite the arrivals of **LCpls 'Rick' Noonan** and **'Stu' Phillips**. Eventually of course they will rise to the high standards we set and become the perfect replacements for men of the calibre of: **Cpl Steve Sanderson** who, when he wakes up, will find he's in Belize. **Cpl Dave Hizzett** who is off to show his wide range of technical and drinking skills to the TTS at Catterick, and finally . . . **Cpl 'Fran' Francis** who is following **Dave Hizzett**, but may not bother with the technical bit!

FORWARD REPAIR TEAMS (FRT)

This section is plodding along nicely under the leadership of **SSgt Charlie Abbott**. The membership changes constantly, (testimony to the endearing qualities of our section SNCOs and the true vocational nature of our work), still I suppose I can name some of them: **Sgt Callum Downie, Cpls 'Rock' Hudson, Charlie Rigg, Dave Menice, Phil Leach, Clive Smith** and **Ned Kelly**.

INDIA TROOP

OC	**Capt Ted Flint**
OC (Des)	**Capt David Vardy**
2IC	**WO2 (YofS) George McAvoy**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Phil McGiveron**
YofS	**SSgt (FofS) Gary Stratton**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bob McMahon**

The last two months have been especially busy ones for the province's ADP troop, particularly for the Technical Support Section as they carried out the work made necessary by the deployment of 3 Inf Bde. The next few months look as if they will be even busier. There has been a large turnover of personnel, and some handy sportsmen have been posted in, including **Cpl Baz Roberts** and **Sig Armstrong**, who has brought his considerable size and enthusiasm to every possible sporting event so far.

We have done very well so far in the Squadron's McKelvie Trophy competition, winning both the Badminton and the Basketball Tournaments, which are the only stages which have been played so far. The Troop also distinguished itself at the Squadron Fete on 4 June when the Beer and Bratwurst stall won the prize for the best stall and the Smash the Piggie stall took the prize for the best costumes. The Medieval One Armed Bandit and the Beat the Goalie stalls also proved popular with the crowds on the day.

TROOP HEADQUARTERS

We welcome **Capt David Vardy** who joins us from Trials Squadron at Blandford. He is due to take over in September from **Capt Ted Flint** who will attend JCSC in September. The Troop will sorely miss **SSgt Bob McMahon**, erstwhile Troop Staff Sergeant, who has left us for 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish **Bob, Enid** and their daughters every happiness in Korbecke.

WHISKY SECTION

Whisky Section runs a computer system. It consists of Data telegraphists and is commanded by **WO2 (YofS) McAvoy**.

The Section has seen many new faces recently: **Cpl Roberts, WLCpl Jeffery, LCpl Hudson, LCpl Heaps, LCpl Ward, Sig Armstrong, Sig Garlick** and **Pte Gooding**. We say farewell, thanks, and good luck to **WO2 (YofS) McAvoy, Sgt Duckworth, Cpl Mitton, Sig Hudson, Pte Hart** and **Pte Allmark** (nee **Pinder**).

VICTOR SECTION

Welcome to **SSgt (YofS) Gary Stratton** and his family, **Cpls Richie Brown, Paul Sinderberry, LCpl Jewison, Sig 'Mo' Morris** and **Sig Moffett**. Farewell and thank you to **LCpl 'Brads' Bradford, Sig 'Dutch' Holland, Sig Steve Steel** and **WPte Fern White**.

Well done to **YofS Stratton** who successfully completed the Blandford Tower Run and raised a substantial amount for the Children in Need Appeal. Congratulations to **Cpl Richie Brown** on his forthcoming marriage to **Judy**, and enjoy yourselves in the Caribbean!

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SECTION

Welcome to **Sgt Steve Ferguson**, posted in from Tech Tp, who could not wait to get his sleeves rolled up and stuck in to some leave. He is still waiting. Welcome as well to **Sgt McAlroy** whom we have kidnapped from the RQMS department.

The Section has been extremely busy recently, both working with the Tech Tp Brinton teams and installing and moving our own equipments. It is rumoured that the Foreman has forgotten where he lives. The workload has been increased for those who are still here by the fact that a large part of the Section, **(Cpl Chris Wilson)**, has been away on courses.

TECH TROOP

Well here we are, more than half way through the year, all the way through the manufacturers spares packs and all the way through the annual budget for replacing them.

The brave men prepared to deal with such problems are: **WO2 (FofS) Hughes**. Gnasher? . . . that's a long story. **SSgt Sanderson** . . . a man who plays a lot of golf; we don't know what he does in his own time! **Sgt Shorter**—who? **Sgt Webb**—who now spends all his time working . . . but that's another story.

Being surrounded by men of this calibre must really make the TOT feel secure.

SYSTEMS SECTION

We operate a kind of trade union law here when it comes to *Wire* Notes. Last in . . . first choice for writing them! I think it's because us 'newies' don't know where to hide when **Sgt 'Gorgeous Gaz' Hailstone** comes hunting a spare bod! I can call him that now because providing these notes are printed after September I'll be a civvy. If they're printed before, I'll be a casualty!

The main thing that you notice when you come to work here is that REMSDAQ actually works and is useful. Any reader that has served in the Falklands will be stunned I know but it really is true. Apart from that it's the normal shiftwork, PT, Guards and QRFs that go into making System Control work so enjoyable. The workmen are digging a trench towards one of the TOTs pits at the moment . . . I wonder if I should check the dimensions?

Tech Troop PT. Sgt 'Gorgeous Gaz' Hailstone and Sig 'Slice' Steel exercise beside the new troop swimming pool

SHOOTING TEAM REPORT

The Team:

Sgt Taff Carr	Rifle, SMG, Pistol
Cpl 'Jabber' Ker	Rifle, LMG
Cpl Dave Menice	Rifle, SMG
LCpl Andy Craig	Rifle, SMG, LMG, Pistol
Sig 'Moff' Moffett	Rifle, Pistol

This year's season began in February in near blizzard conditions at Magilligan Ranges with the Team competing in the Mercury Cup Skill at Arms Competition. At the end of a long, wet and cold day we came second to 8 Bde Sig Sqn after a count back on the scores.

Undeterred, after some 12 practice days we entered the Northern Ireland Skill at Arms Meeting (NISAM) over 29/30 April and 1 May at Ballykinler. The competition was fierce with eight Minor Units trying to fill the two allotted vacancies for the Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Bisley later on this year.

At the end of day one we had won one of the Rifle Matches and thanks to the skill of **Cpl 'Jabber' Ker** and **LCpl Andy Craig**, the LMG Match was 'in the bag'.

Day two saw the Team competing in the remaining Rifle Matches and the SMG championship which resulted in a successful result in both.

Travelling to the Ranges at 0615 hrs on the morning of the final day, **LCpl Andy Craig**, who was piloting the weapons vehicle, hit a large bump in the road which sent **Cpl 'Spacewalker' Ker** into orbit in the back of the vehicle. Being an experienced astronaut he soon realised that he had to break his fall on return to earth and so, judging the moment with absolute precision, he manouvered his head into position between the rest of his body and the sharp corner of the (very solid) weapons box thereby avoiding damage to his trigger finger (such dedication!) He landed without a murmur. Unfortunately for him neither **LCpl Craig** or the co-pilot, **Sig 'Moff' Moffett**, saw or heard the 'free-fall'. The first they knew of it was 20 minutes later when a now conscious bloodied hand and head appeared between them. They headed for the Medical Centre where a kindly Medic administered three stitches and two aspirins. Owing to bad weather the Falling Plate competition had to be cancelled, which left us with only the Section Match to compete in, where we finished one point behind 39 Bde Sig Sqn.

Our overall results were:-

Minor Units Championships	Winners
Rifle Match	1st
SMG Championship	1st
LMG Match	1st
Section Match	2nd
Pistol Match	4th

The Team is now looking forward to competing at the Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms Meeting in June and the Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting in July, albeit without the steady hand and eye of **Cpl Dave Menice** who has had to 'retire' due to pressure of work.

Footnote: 8 Bde Sig Sqn finished second in the Minor Unit Championships and so once again Northern Ireland will be represented by two Royal Signals teams.

The winning team in the NI Minor Units SAA meeting
L to R: SSgt 'Taff' Carr, Cpl Dave Menice, Sig 'Moff' Moffett, Cpl Jabba Ker. *Kneeling*: LCpl Andy Craig

MISS BEING PART OF A TEAM?

SSAFA/FHS could help you as much as you help us.

If you served in the Forces for any length of time, you probably enjoyed being part of a team. If you've retired now, and miss that feeling, there's one simple way to get it back – become a SSAFA/FHS volunteer.

Service and ex-Service men and women, and their families can, and do, have all sorts of problems they need help with. Often ex-service personnel understand those problems better, but SSAFA/FHS volunteers come from all walks of life and it's certainly not essential to have a Forces' background.

We particularly need help in the inner cities so, if you'd like to be part of a worthwhile team and help people at the same time, write to John Gibson now.

SSAFA/FHS

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION/FORCES HELP SOCIETY

16–18 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Telephone: 01-222 9221.

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

The forecast that 1988 would be a busy year socially for QG Signals was no understatement with the departure of the Comd **Lt Col J. E. Neeve** which started the ball rolling. He was dined out in style by the WOs and SNCOs of the Regiment and PMC for the occasion was **WO2 (YofS) Dick Gamble**. He took his duties very seriously insisting on staying until the bitter end to ensure things ran smoothly; that is his story! Aided and abetted by **WO1 (FofS) Colin Ramsay** and **WO1 (YofS) Don Wilson**, the trio attempted to disprove the theory that the earliest breakfast you can get is at 0600 hrs.

Our new Comd, **Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE** barely had his feet under his desk when the Regiment was visited by OIC Royal Signals Manning and Records, **Col D. M. O. Miller**. This coincided with the visit of the DAMA Inspection Team which spent two weeks ripping apart what the Regiment had spent 12 weeks putting together. The chief clerk of JSSS, **WO2 Tom Dean** actually came in from leave on the day of their visit.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

QG Signals has once again excelled on the sporting scene here in Hong Kong with the Regimental football team reaching the final of the prestigious Nepal Cup. Although beaten in the final by a well drilled 10 GR team, congratulations must go to the squad on some excellent performances in the previous rounds.

The end of the hockey season is a time to reflect on a very successful year. To enable more members of the Regiment to participate, each squadron competes as a minor unit. The final league standings in which major and minor units compete together, saw 246, 247 and HQ Sqns occupy second, third and fourth positions respectively, beating the majority of major units in the process. HQ Sqn was the winner of the Minor Unit Cup with 248 Sig Sqn runners up and 246 Sig Sqn won the Inter Unit six-a-side competition with 247 Sig Sqn winning the plate.

Just to prove to everyone that **WO2 (RQMS) Steve McKechnie** doesn't spend all his time on the hockey field, he has just been awarded his British Forces colours for golf and has once again been selected to represent the Combined Services against the Australian and New Zealand forces.

SHOOTING

The shooting team, looking to repeat its successes over the previous two years, is training hard for the RASAM at Bisley, however, competition doesn't stop there. The team will then move to Canada to represent the British Army in Ex Sharpshooter. A tremendous honour for the Regiment and we wish **Capt (QGO) Lilbahadur Gurung** and his team every success.

LS&GC PRESENTATION

On 28 March **Brig V. J. Beauchamp** presented the LS&GC Medal to **SSgt Bill Muspratt ACC** and **Sgt Chan Woon Lam** Hong Kong Military Service Corps. The presentation conducted by **WO1 (GSM) Paddy Crabtree** took place in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess in the presence of the officers and mess members. After the presentation, most stayed on to wet the medals.

L to R (Rear Row): SSgt W. Muspratt ACC, Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE, Comd Queens Gurkha Signals, Capt J. Tuck RAMC, Sgt Chan Woon Lam HKMSC
(Front Row): Miss Cheryl Muspratt, Mrs Gail Muspratt, Brig V. J. Beauchamp Comd 48 Gurkha Inf Bde, Mrs Emily Chan, Master Christopher Chan

The Sultan's Armed Forces Signals
PO Box No 1720

A RECORD?

After a silence of many years, SAF Signals get a mention for the third time in six months. This time because of a notable event that will be of interest to all users of the UK military telephone network and particularly to the custodians of Corps silver!

A CELEBRATION

During a recent visit Plessey Network Office Systems Limited gave, now known as GEC/Plessey Telecommunications, GPT for short, a private dinner party on Tuesday 15 March 1988 at the Muscat Inter-continental Hotel. Present were senior representatives of The Plessey Company, Systems Reliability Limited (who provided the 'Orbitel' call logging and management system) and members of SAF Signals; plus a sprinkling of wives. The highlight of the evening came when **Mr Terry Haley**, on behalf of Plessey, presented a magnificent sterling silver salver, suitably engraved, which was accepted by the Comd, **Col Gordon Barnett**, on behalf of SAF Signals. The salver now resides in HQ Mess, Muaskar al Murtafa'a, along with our only other silver item, for use at our own private functions.

AS ALWAYS—CHANGES

Since our last report, people have come, people have gone. Internally, **FofS Chris Fielding** has moved from the base workshops to run his own show as OC TM Tp in 2 Sig Regt, Salalah, a mere 600 miles away. **YofS Jason Wood** has left us for 22 Sig Regt and has been replaced by **YofS Mick Hawley. YofS Sid Colman** is now at AA Coll Harrogate and his successor is **YofS John Chilcott**. We always knew that the Yeoman were good at getting blood out of a stone, but this has got to be a record—**Sid Coleman** seems to have worked a return trip for nine months to help run the first ever in-country Yeomans, course. **Capt Gordon James** joined SAF recently, but to wear a grey beret and belt as a staff officer running loan service matters. We tried to poach him across, but lost that one. Finally, by the time these notes are published **Lt Col Ian Penny** will have left us for HQ 2 Sig Bde in Corsham and **Lt Col Ian Turner** will have taken over—hopefully including the commitment to produce the scrambled eggs, bacon, beans and toast on the wadi-bashing expeditions.

FINALE

We will not be out of contact for very long. In June we open a brand new Force Telecommunications Workshops which will have TOT's everywhere going green with envy.

Signal Training Centre Scarborough

It is always sad to say farewell and **Lt Col Tom Cran** certainly found it so as the gates to Burniston Barracks were closed behind him for the last time. **Col Tom** now leaves us to take up an RO's appointment at 8 Sig Regt. One of the Colonel's last duties as Commandant of the Signal Training Centre was to present **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Reynolds** with his Royal Warrant, and to say farewell to **Mr Dennis Ford** our civilian driver; we wish **Dennis** and his wife **Hilary** all the very best for the future and hope they will come back often and visit us in the 'Jimmy Club'.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Commandant, **Maj Gordon Wallace MBE** and his wife **Laura** who have joined us from 30 Sig Regt and hope that they both thoroughly enjoy their tour here with us in sunny Scarborough.

One of **Maj Gordon Wallace's**, first jobs as Commandant was to welcome **Brig A. F. Eastburn**, Comd Training Group, Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison to Scarborough, on his initial visit to the Signal Training Centre, on 19 April. During his visit the Brigadier was fascinated with the military history that is plentiful in Burniston Barracks and dates back to 1860.

After his tour of the Barracks the Brigadier presented **Sgt 'Taff' Lewis** with his LS&GC medal. Present during the ceremony, which was held in the Jimmy Club, were his wife **Jenny** and their three children, **Grant, Katherine** and **Zoe** and his mother-in-law **Mrs Ursula Grace** together with members of the permanent staff. We all congratulate **Sgt Lewis** on his award. Thanks also go to 32 Sig Regt (V) who were training at the barracks, for providing a splendid buffet lunch to mark the occasion, it was certainly appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

On the sporting scene the permanent staff badminton club is going from strength to strength. We now have three ladies among our ranks, who come along regularly on a Monday evening to play.

In our last match against the local Fire Brigade we earned a well deserved draw in a very hard fought game. We are now looking forward to playing more matches against local opposition and visiting units so, if you have a badminton team and are due to come to Scarborough, please contact us so we can organise a game.

Lt Col Tom Cran trying to re-enter Burniston Barracks and being prevented from doing so by WO2 (RQMS) Pete Reynolds, SSgt (SQMS) Norman Crossley, Sgt Steve Jewel (ACIO) and Sgt 'Taff' Lewis

Brig A. F. Eastburn Comd Trg Gp Royal Signals presenting Sgt Lewis with his LS&GC. Sgt Hair *(left)* holding the cushion 'wondering whatever happened to his medal', with members of the permanent staff and close friends looking on

SHAPE BFPO 26

For those of the Corps who have not served here and assume that all Royal Signals at SHAPE are serving with RSGS we hasten to say that this is not the case. There are four main areas where Royal Signals are employed: Regional Signal Group SHAPE (RSGS), Live Oak, UK Support Unit and the Headquarters itself. Here we publicise those who make up HQ RSGS.

SPOTLIGHT ON HQ REGIONAL SIGNAL GROUP SHAPE

RSGS is an international Signal Unit run on similar lines to a Signal Regiment serving the Headquarters with HQ RSGS equivalent to RHQ, Ops and QMs departments.

We are led by **Lt Col Tony Hill** who is the Deputy Commander and who must be the longest serving British soldier in SHAPE. However, all good things must come to an end so he is busily preparing to wrench himself away to start a new career as an RO at 2 Sig Bde.

In the Admin Office we have a very strong presence with the Chief Clerk, **SSgt (ORSQMS) Ray Williams** who is also going to escape soon to the School of Signals, and **Sgt Paul Addison** who arrived recently from 7 Sig Regt. Congratulations to him on being selected for promotion on the recent Promotion Board. We won't lose him, however, as he will move sideways to fill the Chief Clerk's post. And lastly we have **Cpl Jimmy Park** who came here from 13 Sig Regt on promotion. In fact it has been a double celebration year for him as his wife **Lynda** recently gave birth to their first child, **Alexander James**, in the SHAPE Hospital.

The Admin Office is very keen on joining in the local sporting activities so **Sgt Paul Addison** is now nursing a broken rib and **Cpl Jimmy Park** a broken nose, both sustained in recent football competitions in which RSGS has been quite successful. The Chief Clerk is pleased that he just runs—it seems to be a safer sport!

Also in the corridors of power, is the Regional Control Room (RCR) ably led by **WO2 (YofS) John Tyreman.** He came here from 40 Sig Regt (V) so he is used to the active service environment of the RCR!

In addition we have a small detachment nearby where **SSgt Joe Millar** passes his days away doing . . . well, we're not too sure what! He has recently taken over on promotion from **SSgt Archie Arbuckle** who left us to go to Northern Ireland.

And finally, in our spotlight of HQ RSGS, is **Sgt Martin Richards** who normally resides in the Logistics Branch but is at present enjoying himself in Yorkshire on his RSSSC.

HQ RSGS
Back Row: SSgt (ORSQMS) Williams, Sgt Addison and SSgt Millar
Front Row: WO2 (YofS) Tyreman, Lt Col Hill and Cpl Park

GAMES NIGHT V ROYAL NAVY

A challenge was sent out to the Royal Navy contingent to find out if they really were the 'Senior Service'. It was a closely fought competition with games which included darts, skittles, crib, snooker, dominoes and spoof (don't ask us what the latter is, ask **SSgt Joe Millar**—the organiser).

A good night was had by all, the Royal Navy even enjoyed being in second place. We will have to wait 'til late summer to find out if they can play cricket.

Berlin Sig Regt
BFPO 45

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF TO BERLIN

This year the Colonel-in-Chief was invited to Berlin to take the salute at the Berlin Infantry Brigade Queen's Birthday Parade. HRH arrived on the evening of 24 May and was met at RAF Gatow by **Maj Gen P. G. Brooking**, GOC Berlin (British Sector). She then inspected a Guard of Honour found from C Squadron of 14th/20th King's Hussars, Berlin Headquarters and Signal Regiment and 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt. The OC of 3 Sqn, **Maj Stephen Andrews** commanded the Guard of Honour. CO of Berlin HQ and Sig Regt, **Lt Col John Munnery** and **Mrs Munnery** had the honour of being presented to **The Princess Royal GCVO**.

On the morning of 25 May, **The Princess Royal** took the salute at the Queen's Birthday Parade at the Maifield. In amongst the swirl and skirl of Black Watch kilts and pipes, KOSB colours and King's khaki was a lone landrover, proudly representing Berlin HQ and Sig Regt.

The weather was warm and those in ceremonial dress just a bit too warm. The Parade was a huge success thanks to the effort of **WO1 (RSM) Bailes** R Signals, the Parade RSM.

After the parade, the Colonel-in-Chief attended a Reception at the Jahnplatz in Stadium Barracks, a function organised by CO Berlin HQ and Sig Regt. **WO2 (RQMS) Alf Taylor**, who did so much to arrange this lunch for 1,500 people, was presented to HRH.

After lunch **The Princess Royal** was our personal guest. HRH first visited the Ground Satellite Station, part of the empire of Berlin Telecommunications Office, met **Mr Bill Gorst**, the Senior Tels Officer, **Mr Roger Beale**, the Tels Officer (Radio), **Capt Nigel Gill**, Ops Officer, and **Herr Koch** the Station Superintendant.

HRH then visited 1 Sqn where the OC, **Maj Craig McColville** was presented and in turn presented **Maj George Yule, Capt Malcolm Llewellyn, WO2 (SSM) Andy Wilson, WO2 (YofS) Brian Colvin, SSgt (YofS) Paul Curley** and **SSgt (FofS) Sid Kassim**.

Firstly **Cpl Thomas** and **Sigs Collin, Bolton** and **Byrne** demonstrated their field radio equipment. Then **Sgt Blackley, Cpls Stacy, Carson** and **Evans** and **LCpl Simpson** showed HRH the proper way to operate a Commcen in the field. **Cpl Broom** and **LCpl Gordon** repaired it, and **Yeoman Curley** and **Cpl Collins** demonstrated the logistics Command Post.

The Princess Royal then attended a tea party in the Berlin Garrison Sergeants' Mess where the RSM presented **WO2 (SSM) Dukes** of 14th/20th Kings Hussars and **WO2 (SSM) F. Byrne** of 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt. HRH then chatted to officers and seniors and their wives from Berlin Sig Regt and the two Squadrons. HRH left to emplane thus ending a very full day.

HRH meeting Cpl Collins (R Op) and SSgt (YofS) Curley
Standing by are CO Berlin HQ and Sig Regt, Lt Col John Munnery, and OC 1 Sqn Maj Craig McColville

The Colonel-in-Chief talks to Sig Bolton on the Guard-of-Honour inspection at RAF Gatow

HRH is introduced to Mr Bill Gorst Snr Tels Officer by Lt Col John Munnery CO Berlin HQ and Sig Regt at the satellite comms compound

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1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

VISIT OF GARRISON COMMANDER

On 6 May the new Garrison Commander, **Brig E. F. G. Burton OBE**, visited the Regiment. He toured the barracks and saw and met the Regiment at work. He then presented medals and a certificate of commendation to three members of the Regiment. **WO2 (QMSI) Rodgers** and **SSgt Bradshaw** were presented with LS&GC Medals. **LCpl Morris** was presented with a Commendation from GOC 2 Inf Div and North East District for his brave action at York railway station last September, when he stopped a violent assault on a man, thus preventing serious injury and resulting in the arrest and conviction of the assailant.

Presentation of LS&GC Medals and GOC's Commendation to SSgt Bradshaw, LCpl Morris and QMSI Rodgers

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

Three members of the Regiment were involved in a serious road accident on 23 April 1988 and are now recovering in hospital. **Sig Davies, Chapman** and **Littler** were seriously injured when their car was involved in a head-on collision with another car. All members of the Regiment wish them a speedy recovery and an early return to duty.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS

The Squadron came second, this time to HQ Sqn. There were some very good performances. Special mentions go to **WO2 (SSM) Hegarty, Sgt Bailey, Cpl Tony Barker, Sig Barnard** and **Haynes** in their respective events.

The Inter Squadron Tug-of-War was held simultaneously and 1 Sqn triumphed, losing only one pull to HQ Sqn. The team is shown below pulling against HQ Sqn in the final.

1 Sqn, urged on by Lt Makepeace, trying to pursuade the OC Sqn to stay and do a 'shift' in OSC. The 'secret' agent (heavily disguised as Cpl McConnachie) looks unimpressed

SHOOTING—REGIMENTAL SAAM

The Squadron had a particularly successful Regimental SAAM this year, coming second overall to 201 Sig Sqn. In particular, well done to **Capt Al McPhee, Lt Neil Makepeace** and **Sig Steve Barnes** on winning the pistol match, and to **Lt Makepeace, Sgt Wayne Cox, Sig Ridley, Steve Barnes** and **Cpl Twigger** on winning the SMG match. An excellent two days on the ranges marred only slightly by a flurry of snow.

1 SQUADRON

The Squadron has been heavily involved on exercises or Regimental events over the past weeks. There has been the usual turnover of personnel, with notable inclusions. In particular, farewell to the OC, **Maj Bernard Barton-Ancliffe** and **Liz**, and to the 2IC, **Capt Tony Rock** and **Debbie**. The ex-OC and wife now have the misfortune to be settling into their new home in the USA! Best wishes to **Capt Alan McPhee** and new wife **Arlynne**. He takes over now as OC Squadron for a few months. **SSgt Bruce** was replaced by **SSgt Bradley** as SQMS. We wish all the best to all arrivals and departures, too numerous to mention.

SWIMMING

The Squadron spent a glorious morning of the incoming summer at the Verden Freibad, for the Regimental Swimming Competition. We came second in a very close competition, which 207 Sig Sqn won. The whole team performed well. Well done in particular to **Lt Makepeace** for winning the 100m Freestyle, **Sig Ward** for the 100m Breaststroke and **LCpl Rob Allward** on teaming up with **Lt Makepeace** to win the 2 × 100m Freestyle relay.

2 SQUADRON

The Squadron has been very busy the last few weeks. Ex Hurst Park was a gruelling time both for the panzers and the crews. The weather was very warm throughout the exercise; the Noddy suits only adding to **Cpl Marshall's** misery as Liverpool lost the final.

FAREWELL VISIT OF CRA

Brig I. G. Townsend, the departing CRA, visited the Squadron to say goodbye to the operators on his panzers, and the rebro crews from Rover Tp.

The Brigadier congratulating SQMS 2 Sqn on recognising a panzer

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Papa Tp went on summer camp to Bavaria whilst the rest of the Regiment sweltered through the first week of Ex Hurst Park. The weather was glorious as the Troop spent a week climbing, canoeing and hill walking. This camp was different, in that for the first time students did each activity for the full week. This led to nine canoeists getting their proficiency certificates, even after **Lt Paul Pople** had led them over two stretches of white water, one of which was 8km long. This proved quite a test of endurance as **Sig 'Ginge' Toye** discovered after his tenth unplanned eskimo roll! **LCpl 'Sheff' Sheffield** did break open a bottle of champagne to celebrate a grand total of zero capsizes.

The hill walkers were hampered by the unusually low snow line, but even they managed to get absolutely soaked by 'polly bagging' on the melting snow in the brilliant sunshine. **Sig 'Tomo' Thompson** set an unbreakable record for the 100m polly bag sprint; the sight of his scrapes and bruises put anyone else off challenging!

SAILING

After the exercise the Squadron 'stood down' for a break. **Capt Herstell** took a team to compete in the Whitsun Offshore Regatta at Kiel.

3 SQUADRON
LIMA TROOP

The Lima men have been kept busy during the past few months, but the social pressure has been very well maintained in keeping with Troop tradition.

Congratulations to **Sig 'Black Adder' Blench** on organising a very well appreciated Gilde brewery trip, it went down very well! The Troop OC played a blinder and found himself on duty that day, thus missing the trip.

On the sporting side of life, the latest 10-Pin Bowling competition was fiercely contested and led to a play-off over 18in pizza's. The Troop OC and **Sgt King** made the competition void as they arrived just at the right time to receive a free pizza, after which no-one wanted to play any more.

21 May saw the Troop entered in a shooting competition versus the local German reservists. The reservists were the eventual winners. This excellent day, organised by **Cpl Strefford**, was rounded off with barbecue and beer all in the good name of International Relations.

Ex Hurst Park saw nine American 'line-dogs' attached to the Troop. They made the A-Team look like a local Boy-Scout group. The exercise passed very quickly and nine American 'line-pups' were seen heading back to Bremen having enjoyed the attachment. We hope to have them again sometime.

We welcome the following new members to the Troop; **Cpls Stewart, Franklin, LCpl Leonard, Sig O'Connor** and **Aitchison**. We say farewell to **Sig Thompson** on his way to 30 Sig Regt and hope **Sig MacKenzie** has a wonderful six months in the Falklands.

A final note, has anyone seen the Troop OC? Or is he playing Rugby/arranging Tug-of-War/Volleyball/arranging a KAPE tour? Maybe he is on duty . . . again?

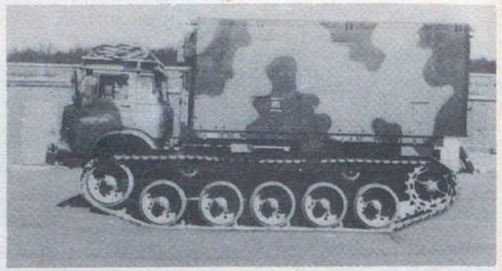
NOVEMBER TROOP

After a successful Ex Flying Falcon, the Troop spent March working on kit, with some members getting away on Ex Snow Queen. (The record for this year being held by the OC, **Lt Alan Blackwell** with 34 days with **LCpl Yates** in second place with 30 days).

April saw the Troop on a one day exercise, Ex Bent Elbow, to practise movement and communication under adverse conditions. We deployed at 0700 hrs and reached the brewery at 0900 hrs. After an extremely enjoyable day, the Troop returned to Verden sometime that evening; no-one is quite sure when Endex was finally called!

A couple of days later, the Troop was once again practising its alternate role when it provided a Thomas the Tank engine for the SSAFA fair. **LCpl Dean Haynes** and **Sig Mick Madeley** proved themselves ready to change trade to 'Combat Clown' and 'Whistle/Flag Op' respectively.

November Troop deploying on exercise



The new CBBT of November Troop

The most notable event of Ex Highland Malt in late April was perhaps the last stage, in NBC black: well done the new Squadron 2IC, **Capt Nevil Thompson**, for still having a respirator on as we drove into Verden.

June saw November Tp trialling the new CBBT (Combat Box Body Tracked) which soon became known as the 'Tankford'. Rear can become tracked yet!

On return from Ex Hurst Park in mid June, the OC Tp became Assistant Adjutant for three weeks so the Troop had to celebrate that. Apologies to the wives, but your husbands were back in time for breakfast!

The end of May saw the Troop preparing for the Verden Garrison Saddle Club annual Horse Show and **Cpl 'Spike' Sharp** sewing his second tape on: congratulations on a well deserved promotion.

OSCAR TROOP

It has been a busy few months for the intrepid 'Trackers' of 3 Sqn: plenty of comings and goings and some good exercises under our belt.

We say farewell to **Cpl 'Pepe' Fernandez** and his wife **Julia** on his posting on promotion to 249 Sig Sqn; also to **LCpl Eddy Gajny** and his wife **Michelle** and family as he starts his new trade with HQ Sqn. Is this a ploy to poach 3 Sqn's secrets of efficiency, we ask ourselves?

We say hello to our new Troop OC (yet another one) in **2Lt Mark Roberts**. Welcome also to **LCpl Berman** and his wife and family and to **Cpl Harvey** with his wife from 1 Sqn. 1 Sqn were obviously not too happy to lose **Cpl Harvey** and have broken his arm in order to hinder us!

On exercise, the Troop's reputation for efficiency has not wavered and new standards have been reached. The last exercise saw a 103km Main to Main night move in eight hours. Congratulations to **LCpl Stevie Chinn** on a new pack-lift record of three in two days; well done **Steve**.

Congratulations to **Sgt Ray Bray** on his soon to come promotion to Staff Sergeant. We will be sorry to lose him on posting in July.

NEWS FROM THE TECHS

The Troop has said goodbye to **Cpls Hoodless** and **Andy Sole** to 8 Sig Regt; best wishes to you both.

Our contribution to the annual Verden Garrison Horse Show consisted of running the very successful bar. This was a change of scenery for **SSgt (FofS) Richardson** who throughout the exercise was seen hugging the tea pot!

Well done to **Cpl Cave** on being posted to Gibraltar some consolation after failing his T1 entrance exam.

A special well done to **Cpls Murray** and **Simons** on passing their T1 entrance exams but not getting posted to Gibraltar.

Finally, better luck next time to **Sgt 'Farry' Farrington** as P Company eludes him once more.

201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde) BFPO 30

As summer attempts to enter the dark corners of 'sunny' Hohne, the Squadron can look back with satisfaction at a busy and successful spring. The time has been spent, on the whole, preparing for and being on exercise. RSIT has been and gone: the Squadron, however, still finds time to enjoy itself and let its hair down.

1 ARMOURED DIVISION SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

Following the Squadron's victory at the Regimental Skill-at-Arms Meeting, it won the 1 Armd Div Minor Units SAAM for the fourth successive year. Although, as usual, it was a close run contest, all challengers were again beaten off by a concerted team effort. Congratulations to the team—**Cpl 'Dusty' Miller, LCpl Dave Bousfield, Cpl Chris Price** and the old man of the team **Cpl Chris Rix**. Well done again!

Cpl Chris Price competes in the Divisional SAAM

ACF VISIT

A look of horror and disbelief passed over OC A Tp, **Lt Jon Watt's** face when he learnt he was to be responsible for 90 ACF Cadets (ages 12-17) over one Sunday. Salvation was at hand when a competition was suggested and the Squadron was mobilised into action to help.

The Cadets were divided into two teams and each completed various stands. These included setting up an SHF Link, laying HF QUAD and connecting a subset. Rumours that the Squadron manning problems have now disappeared are untrue and all the Cadets have returned home.

EXERCISE HIGHLAND MALT II/88

Ex Highland Malt II/88 ran at a fast and furious pace testing the Squadron on how to survive with no sleep and one pair of underpants. As **Capt Howard Flint**, OC Step Up, was heard to exclaim—'Even I was tired'.

EXERCISE HURST PARK

Ex Hurst Park was the successful culmination of all our training over the past few months. In near tropical weather, the Squadron donned NBC suits, applied camouflage cream, and set off into the great unknown. Fast but long moves were the order of the day. Extra-mural activity was provided by **Sig Phil Humphreys** and his 'crash' course stunt-driving. In addition **'Basil Raybourids'** free-fall parachuting club proved popular. Having descended 20ft into a concrete cesspit, he blamed his horizontal landing on the weight distribution of his LMG.

JUDO

Congratulations to **Sig Mick Turnbull** on winning his weight in the European IBF Judo championships. Good luck in future competitions.

SPORT

Once again the Squadron participated in virtually every BAOR sport and it is impossible to mention them all here. Well done however to the Hockey Team who put in a good performance against many Major unit teams in the Royal Signals White Knight Tournament. Congratulations also to the Cross Country and Athletics Team which were runners up in their respective Brigade competitions.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Fond farewells to **Sgt 'Titch' Wright** who is off to 8 Sig Regt; **Cpl Harry Fellows** who is leaving the sharp end and going to 21 Sig Regt and to **Cpls 'Wally' Pollitt, 'Winker' Watson** and **'Gaz' Stevens** all off to the Civpop. Congratulations and goodbye to **SSgt Clive Tepielow** who leaves for Exeter UOTC on promotion, and hello to **SSgt Simpson** who replaces him as SSgt A Tp.

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207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Once again we have welcomed and bade farewell to a number of people over the last two months. Most recently, **SSgt Baz Palmer** and his wife **Joanne**, who leave us for the peaceful setting of the RMAS. They will be sorely missed by everyone and we wish them all the very best. **2Lt Robbie Forrest** departs shortly for his YOs' course at the School of Signals, and once again we wish him all the best in his future career: in the short time that he has been with us, he has become the Squadron mascot! We hope that he has found his time with the Squadron useful.

Other stalwarts of the Squadron soon to go on promotion are **WO2 (YofS) Mick Drake** and his wife **Anne** off to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Hollis** (to be SSM) and his wife **Carol** posted to 7 Sig Regt. We also say farewell shortly to **Sgt Dave Forbes** posted to 233 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Dave Simpson** off to HQ AFCENT. Finally, farewell to **Sgt Charlie McNeill** and his wife **Carol** who are posted to Bicester. Our best wished to you all.

On a happier note, we welcome **Sgt John Killoran RAPC** and his wife **Petra, Sgt Colin Brothwell RAOC** and soon to arrive **SSgt (SQMS) Ian Alexander**.

VISIT OF COMD 1 (BR) CORPS—LT GEN SIR PETER INGE KCB

The Squadron was pleased to host the visit of the Corps commander on 21 April. The Squadron demontrated a Plug Up exercise involving the Battlegroups and, in particular, the use of CNRI. Rumour has it that the Brigade Commander, **Brig C. B. Wallace**, had his fingers firmly crossed during the CNRI demonstration! We are glad to record that this blatant lack of faith proved totally unfounded! Our thanks to 1 Armd Div Sig Regt for providing the Ptarmigan assets necessary to make the Plug Up worthwhile.

Comd 1 (BR) Corps, Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge arrives to visit 207 (7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn met by OC Maj J. M. Willis, WO2 (SSM) J. McAveety and WO2 (YofS) M. Drake

ALPHA TROOP

Friday 13: Ex Mustard Rat was progressing nicely and the Troop had just begun its final move, when the con-rod hit the fan! More specifically the G1/G4 436 was so afflicted and the result was a major pack fire. **Sig E. R. P. Wyatt** was the driver and **LCpl Faizey** was the commander—well, you've got to blame someone. The next casualty was the SAS/MC, followed by limping Comms Ops and Ops vehicles. 'But I thought these sort of things only happened in threes' the OC was heard to say: not on Friday 13!

PS: The LAD team would like to know how **Sig Lee McGrail** (the driver of Ops) could sleep through a pack lift!

BRAVO TROOP

The recent highlight of the year, apart from the odd inconvenient exercise, was the Troop expedition to the delights of Eckenforde on the shores of the Baltic. This dangerous May Bank Holiday Expedition was led by **SSgt Kev Lodge** and family who roughed it in a caravan whilst the remainder squatted under canvas! **Sig Dez Coleman** displayed his prowess with a canoe whilst **SSgt Kev Coleman** taught the tricky art of windsurfing. Barbecues and light refreshments were the order of the day, whilst, by night, expeditions were launched into the neighbouring towns. The only tricky point was navigation back to the site as nobody had noted the name of the place!

The Troop welcomed new arrivals **Sig Mark Leak** and **Andy Allen** and bade a sad farewell to **Sig Cooper** off to the halls of Academe (RMAS) on promotion.

SHQ TROOP

With Ex Mustard Rat/Hurst Park now over, echelon is still smarting from the number of moves during the exercise! Was the mysterious Pathfinder at work again? **LCpl Sam Ellis** injected some much needed humour when his famed eagle eyesight failed to recognise that the strange mound which had been his perch during a guard duty was in fact a dead pig! To his legendary eyesight and false teeth can now be added his keen sense of smell that allowed this cadaver to remain undetected!

Otherwise life continues with preparations for the next round of exercises and with **SSgt Bob Wright** trying to find time to fix the odd radio in between being Troop SSgt and beasting the swimming team.

SPORTS NEWS

Once again our gallant sporting correspondent **Lt Matthew Edwards** has been busy keeping up with the recent Squadron sporting participations. Rumour has it that he might actually have time to find the tank park in the near future!

Athletics is now on the agenda, and to that end the Squadron held an inter Troop Sports days as a means of identifying fresh talent. Wives and families came to enjoy the spectacle, and a great day was had by all. In the interests of relationships with Brigade Headquarter, it was perhaps appropriate that they should emerge as the overall champions by a short head from Bravo Tp!

Once again the Squadron are the 7 Armd Bde Cross Country Champions: the mud splattered heroes include **Sgt Dave Forbes, Cpls 'Taff' Tanner, Les North, John Grant, LCpl Pallett** and the OC, **Maj John Willis**. Continuing with cross country, the Squadron went on to achieve a creditable third place in the Royal Signals minor unit cross country championships.

Hockey continues well, with **Capt Hugh Mullan** captaining the Squadron team to victory in the Royal Signals six-a-side plate competition.

Our single biggest success story remains soccer, where the team (under the watchful eye of **Cpl Dave Simpson**) won the 7/22 Bde League undefeated in a style that would have had the professional team managers reaching for their cheque books! **Cpl Dave Simpson** was said to be 'over the moon' . . . after the football team dinner this changed to 'sick as a parrot'! Other football successes include Soltau Garrison Minor Unit Champions, 1 Armd Div Minor Units runners up, and Rheinsehlen Anglo-German Tournament winners. Player of the season was **Cpl Les North**: most consistent player was **Sig Geordie Hogg**: top scorers were **Sig Dave Millar** and **'Scouse' Jennings**, leaving **Cpl Dave Clarke** to pick up the goal of the season award. Finally, the Squadron added a new trophy to the bulging trophy cabinet after winning the Regimental Swimming Competition, narrowly beating 1 Sqn by one point. Our thanks to **SSgt Wright** who bullied the team into some sort of fitness-although the OC is still not sure what he has done to have earned the team butterfly slot: any takers out there?

We are now limbering up for the Summer with Cricket and Athletics well to the fore. Someone said we had one or two tennis players . . . perhaps we will have a go at that as well!

212 Sig Sqn (12 Armd Bde)
BFPO 36

The Squadron has yet again been busy exercising. This time the major commitments were Zodiac Challenge and Hurst Park, more of the news from these from the Troops shortly. The sports scene has had to take something of a back seat with the vast amount of feverish exercise prep that affects us all; however, we have managed to compete in a few events around the country, although, as usual none of them have been anywhere near Osnabruck.

TUG-OF-WAR

Having had no practise prior to the Division meet, a somewhat inexperienced team took the field. After an initial loss against 4 Field Regt, we managed to pull up our socks sufficiently to beat the locally based Signal Squadron. After a rapid nine second loss to 1 RHA, we battled back to a well deserved 2—1 verdict: then however we met 40 Field Regt, the Army champions who brushed aside our challenge rather easily.

RUGBY

A resurrected rugby side eventually finished the season with a couple of good wins and is looking forward to some hard training during the Summer, prior to next season. The team acquitted itself well during both the Garrison and Corps sevens, and with some new blood posted in, next season's standard should be an improvement.

ATHLETICS

A weakened athletics team competed in both local and Morrison Cup events finishing well down the order in both. Our only notable athlete has been **LCpl Dean Hickling** in the javelin.

FROM THE TROOPS
TM TROOP

A technically busy couple of months culminated in the major exercises. We deployed to some exciting and unusual locations; some strangely aromatic barns and farmyards, and an extraordinary ruined factory on the Dutch border—(it was actually in one piece when we arrived). It was here that **Sgt Doc Docherty** was reduced to a nervous wreck by a possessed generator. We expected our LAD to BLR it, but were saved when the Brigade Chaplain arrived and carried our a full exorcism.

Our line crew was a little strange in composition. **Sig 'Titch' Purvis** ended up commanding two American linesmen from Bremerhaven. Our foreign friends found some difficulty firstly in understanding a Geordie, and secondly in fathoming out our procedures; they did however both survive the rigours of the task very well. They eventually gave up their quest to find the coke machine and relaxed by playing with 'that cute little jeep'. They were very helpful and we very much appreciated their efforts, for which they were awarded the much sought after 12 Bde sweatshirt. It should see the start of a new fashion among the US Army.

We welcome **SSgt Sean Kelly** and his wife **Deborah** for their brief stay with us. Also **LCpl Rev Revell** and **Sig Bo Spalding** have now reached us from that far flung corner of the Empire—Verden.

Farewell to **Sgt Mark Holden** and his wife **Irene** who have trekked off to the nerve centre of the Corps—Blandford.

Congratulations to **SSgt (FofS) Ian Hugill** on gaining his BAOR colours for canoeing.

PAPA TROOP

We deployed as normal for Ex Zodiac Challenge/Hurst Park, although this time it was our turn to hold Main HQ for the duration of the exercise, thus relieving both Oscar Tp and the almighty of the onerous task. After an habitual start of a scenic drive around the German countryside—or more appropriately lost convoy drills—we arrived at our first location.

The exercise passed without any major problems. The staff contributed their own inimitable style of charm, wit and at times blatant panic.

We managed to split the Troop for some mid-exercise R&R which had the desired effect on morale. Some Troop members were so surprised to find local inhabitants that both spoke to and waved at the massed British Forces, that they decided to stay and make new friends. It did make a very pleasant change to find such friendly locals. Ex Hurst Park proved to be a much faster moving affair that required more rapid movement, even if the quality of locations did not greatly improve. More detours were taken as the map reading and bridge limitations hampered forward movement; it appeared that the Troop was imposing its own deception plan on proceedings.

OSCAR TROOP

We spent the first part of the exercise in a static role acting as Excon for the Bde FTX. It had been decided that the Troop deserved a well earned rest having held Main HQ for so long. We allowed Papa Tp the chance of catering to the Staff's every need. With the weather being so good for week one, we rolled out the deck chairs, and then got down to some serious sunbathing.

Lt Billy Butlin failed for once to produce any 'My Little Pony' cutlery or crockery. We are wondering whether adulthood has at last arrived? **LCpl Scott** and **Cpl Smith** demonstrated that the old landrover is still a very versatile machine but, contrary to advertising reports, it cannot be driven upside down. Eventually the poor damaged machine had to be air lifted out of its predicament. Yet another first for the Troop and the Squadron.

NB: This vehicle is upside down

Sgt 'Doc' Docherty found yet another rogue generator to contend with, and even tried to palm it off on the local binmen, all to no avail.

LCpl Eric Bristow met a local who had learned to fly a helicopter from a manual and apparently did a good line in new and second hand Uzis. **Eric** decided that the price was a bit steep for his bet and so the hapless man had to look elsewhere for custom.

BORDER VISIT

As part of the Garrison ACF programme, the Squadron conducted a border viewing visit with members of various cadet contingents from Scotland, Ulster and London. In spite of an unusual reluctance amongst the East German guards to be photographed, or even seen, the cadets did see some soldiers and some interesting facets of life behind the wire.

The photograph shows the 2IC discussing the border with some Irish Rangers and Argyll cadets.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

FOREWORD
by WO1 (RSM) T. N. O'Brien

Major changes have taken place within the Regiment recently, the most notable being the arrival of our new Commanding Officer **Lt Col J. H. Griffin**. On behalf of all ranks we would like to welcome him and his family to sunny York and hope that they thoroughly enjoy their tour here.

Life has been hectic with many military and fun activities. Briefly, events of note were the Regiment's participation in the Lanyard Trophy, coming a creditable third behind 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn and 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn. The Robbie Davies Memorial Trophy Six-a-Side Football Competition was won by 49 Bde Sig Tp in a thrilling final with 15 Bde Sig Tp.

The young officers of the Regiment were treated to a training weekend consisting of essays, hostage rescue and various other daunting military tasks, all contrived by the devious mind of OC 2 Sqn **Maj Mark Grieves**.

All in all, a traumatic but refreshingly arduous period with much more to follow.

CANOEING
by Capt S. N. Jackson BEM

The Regimental Canoeing Team has been in action again, this time at the UKLF Slalom Championships. These were held at Llandyssul in Wales over the weekend of 14/15 May 1988. The team was second in the unit team event, this result was entirely due to a superb performance by **Sig Simon Ridgeway** who was competing in his first Slalom competition. The members of the team and their individual placings were:-

Capt Steve Jackson	3rd Intermediate K1
Pte Dave Carson	5th Open K1
Sig Simon Ridgeway	8th Novice K1

The unit team will be attempting to retain the titles they won last year in the Army Sprint and Marathon Championships being held this year at Monmouth on 23/24 July. We wish them every success.

CRICKET
by Lt Whimpenny

The search for new talent for the forthcoming season started early with a departmental six-a-side competition. The preliminary rounds were played on 21 April with the 'hot favourites' RHQ falling at the first hurdle to the Cooks. The competition gathered pace with the quarter finals played in the morning on 22 April 1988 followed by the semi-finals. The final was a hard fought match between the LAD and the Cooks. The competition was won by LAD with one Signals cap badge in the team!

Individual prizes went to:-

Sgt Nick Bahado	Best Batsman
Capt Pete Stephenson	Best Bowler

Our thanks to **SSgt Benny Grossmith** and **SSgt (YofS) Mike Dawson** for their umpiring and **Maj David Hargreaves** for scoring.

OFFICERS' RACING

On 13 April the Officers' Mess hosted the first round of World Championship S Car Races. Initial publicity of the event brought a mixed response. However, the thought of procuring a bottle of champagne in lieu of a working S car forced many officers to scour York in the hope of purchasing a car that would perform well under a variety of unforeseen track conditions without incurring a letter from the bank manager. **Lt Dave Whimpenny** got permission from 'Boss' to buy an off-the-shelf 'Works' machine which stole the show and broke all non-existent track records. After some initial tyre warming laps around the mess dining room table the preliminary heats were held.

2Lt John Norris should be commended, especially for driving with a broken leg! **2Lt Richard Rands** driving a modified metro did extremely well against his work rival **Lt Mark Finch**, who in all fairness was more interested that evening in pursuing a closer liaison with **Tracy** the medical representative from the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital at Catterick. The Adjutant **Capt Johnny Perks** took much delight in booking everyone he caught for speeding with his flashing souped-up Police Rover. **Maj Mark Grieves** was putting in a spirited performance in his Works RS Turbo until he was rather unspiritedly forced off the track by a carelessly placed piece of pork pie. Special mention must go to the guest civilian team, led by a husband and wife-to-be partnership, however their vintage cars, had they been any slower, would have been going nowhere.

This trackside report was brought to you by **Capt Charlie Miller** whose final comment was that the results actually bore no resemblance whatsoever to the skill of those drivers in the lower orders (of which he is one!) (To those readers who have not guessed by now, we are talking about that well known 2 Div activity Mess Scalextric Motor racing).

EXERCISE SECOND BEST
by 2Lt Rands

OC A Tp	**2Lt Rands**
Admin SSgt	**SSgt O'Connor**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt Piddock**

This year's Summer Camp was to have been held on the Isle of Man and was quite aptly named Ex Three Legs. Many hours of sweat and tears and hard work, by the Seniors in the Troop was unfortunately ruined by the ferry strike.

There then followed a most hectic 48 hours while a whole new exercise was planned in North Devon. This meant tearing through NEDist HQ for forms and signatures, many long phone calls to camp commandants and too much high blood pressure.

'A' Troop Summer Camp, Ex Second Best, was eventually held at Fremington Camp, Barnstaple. The main party arriving, looking rather green, after a seven hour ride on an Army 'White Elephant' on 7 May.

Activities started early the next day and the programmes for the week were to be Rock Climbing, Windsurfing, Canoeing and Map Reading/Orienteering.

From the outset it was obvious that Rock Climbing Instructor **Capt Ken Clarke** was not going to take any prisoners. **LCpl Battye** was to discover 'Disco Knee' on the first 50ft climb. **Sig Hutchings** managed to save **LCpl Battye** from injury by breaking his fall.

Canoeing Instructor **Sgt Kevin Justice** did not envisage having to supervise a Slalom course when he joined 'A' Troop on Summer Camp. But, whilst paddling across the estuary close to RAF Chivenor runway the planes dropping their fuel tanks caused more than a few ripples in the water. **Sig Fraser** was under the impression that he was taking part in the Normandy landings rather than Summer Camp, as he came within 20ft of the bombardment. Nevertheless he managed to practise his capsize drills.

SSgt Mick Povey, a stalwart for any Summer Camp, gave instruction on windsurfing. However, all his expertise and instruction could do nothing for **SSgt O'Connor**. 'A' Troop Admin Sgt dressed up like Neil Armstrong wearing his shades and dragging his windsurfer like a barge managed to stay on board for an incredible 15 seconds. He now considers himself ready for a Channel crossing!

The map reading and orienteering was provided by **Sgt McCormick**. He was quick to realise that some were not up to scratch on their orienteering.

The week finished with the traditional Summer Camp barbecue provided by chefs **Cpl Light** and **Pte Buckingham** and an excellent job they made of it too. The week was enjoyed by all members of 'A' Troop who were refreshed and looking forward to 1 Sqn Battle Camp.

EXERCISE ELDER FOREST

An element of 15 Bde, led by **Capt 'Rocky' Richardson** and **Sgt Mick Alcock** 2 Sqn took part in an assault against RAF Fylingdales. The mission was to gain entrance to the guarded site and attack key items of equipment.

The order came from the top, the practical points from the shop floor! The cry went out for ladders, gloves for use with barbed wire and many other interesting objects! Once all the kit was assembled the practice assaults took place.

The Regimental POL point became the focal point of much amusement, with **Sig Andy Beech** breaking the fence and **Sig Kev Garth** sleeping on barbed wire we figured nothing else could go wrong as this was part of the Main Assault Team!

By the time we came to leave it had started to rain, and it did not stop until we returned to camp. This did not dampen our spirits, more to the point it soaked them.

Watches were synchronised and we moved out to the first drop off point. Here two sections containing such personalities as: Section One—**Cpl 'Taff' Shane, LCpl 'Chad' Chadwick, LCpl 'Daz' Welch** and **Sig Richie Wilson**. Section Two—**Cpl Sid Vickers, Cpl John Miles, LCpl Dave Harper** and **Sig Ian Dutton**, deployed to their start point. Section three with **Capt Richardson, Cpl Rob Sear, LCpl Eric Francis, Sig Andy Beech** and **Sig Kev Garth** carried on to their drop off point.

H Hour approached (still raining) and everyone moved in for the kill. Things did not start as planned with Section Two being bumped early. This did not ruin the smooth running of the operation. With quick thinking, Section Three moved in to achieve its task with **Capt Richardson** and **Cpl Rob Sear** attacking all the right places.

Everyone made it back to the RV on time where our two dry drivers **Cpl Ian Burton** and **LCpl Spike Watson** sat waiting to take us back to camp.

POST SCRIPT

Hearty congratulations from the Regiment to **Capt Ray Duffy** and **Capt Derek McClelland** on their recent commissioning. **Ray** goes to 38 Sig Regt (V) Adjutant and we wish him all the best. We hope **Derek** will enjoy his tour in Cyprus as Corps Sailing Master.

Also a big 'Hello' to the new Adjutant, **Capt Jonathan Perks**, Assistant Adjutant **2Lt Mhairi Nisbet WRAC**, 2IC 2 Sqn **Capt Dave Hornsby** and **WO1 Alastair Sykes**; we hope they enjoy their tour with the Regiment.

OPENING OF THE UNIT ADMIN OFFICE

The new Unit Admin Office was officially opened by **Brig G. S. Holland** (centre) on 12 May. The purpose-built office will service all units within the Barracks. Our thanks to **Maj John Martin RAPC** and all his staff for their hard work in setting up the office and we wish them every success for the future

Opening of the Unit Admin Office

210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt Adam Hearn**
AO/OC Sup Tp	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
2IC Sup Tp	**Lt Andrew Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Niel Bartlett**

April and May have been busy months for the Squadron, as you will see from the reports in this issue there is no shortage of adventure and challenge in the Airmobile Brigade.

EXERCISE EAGLES HEAD

Held on 17-22 April this was the first of many exercises that are planned for the Brigade on Stanford Training Area. 1 PWO carried out an FTX and the Squadron provided control comms and was also able to practise various air movement procedures.

After a harrowing drive down the A1 (a road to be avoided at all costs) we arrived at Bodney Camp. We established Excon and attempted to engineer our SHF shot with scores of helicopters constantly flying in the way.

The first two days of the exercise were taken up by a round-robin of stands including vehicle under-slung load rigging, manpack radios and helicopter abseiling.

Heli abseiling is a technique used by the Squadron for the insertion of recce parties, manpack rebros, laser target designator and landing site marshalling teams. It also adds spice to any exercise and provides plenty of memorable moments. Men trying to run hunched over in abseil harnesses is an amusing sight, but strap a bergen upside down to their backsides and the whole thing is enough to bring tears to anyone's eyes.

SSgt (FofS) Bob Nicholson and Cpl Al Higgins posing prior to climbing into their helicopter

Cpl Colin Dennis and Sig Bob Armstrong preparing a L/R for internal loading in a Chinook

The next high point was night abseiling. **Sgt Terry Gigg** is now well qualified to explain how not to do it, after flying down the rope only to find that it ran out before he hit the ground (no harm done—to the ground).

After all this fun we had to get down to some more mundane work in the form of two air moves of the Bde HQ the next morning. The CO and RSM flew down from York and managed to see most of the Squadron during their brief visit.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent flying and setting up the HQ and provided valuable opportunities to practise procedures and train the Staff in air moves.

During the air moves we had some interesting moments. The OC's perpetual smile was seen to wane when the Chinook Loadmaster wrote on his scratch pad 'Sorry, we bent it'. Thankfully the underslung rover was not too badly bent.

THE LANYARD TROPHY

While the rest of the Squadron was working away on Ex Eagles Head **Lt Andy Duncan** was leading the team around 40 miles of the Brecon Beacons, carrying weapons and 30lbs, on the Lanyard Trophy Competition; here is his report.

THE TEAM

Lt Andy Duncan	**Cpl Dave Hebden**
LSgt Al Higgins	**LCpl Steve Walton**
Cpl 'Trib' Slaney	**LCpl 'Smudge' Smith**
Cpl Colin Dennis	**Sig 'Dickie' Bird**
Cpl Jim Burgess	**Sig 'Wullie' Pool**

I can remember the day last January when all the officers in the Squadron were getting all sorts of tasks from **Maj 'Paddy' Crowley**.

'This is yours; organise a team and keep me informed'' the note read attached to the exercise instructions. I remember thinking to myself that I wished it was as easy to do as it was to write.

After finding 10 volunteers we assembled to discuss our training programme, unaware of the changes that **Maj Robert Baxter** had in store for the Squadron in its new role. So into the bin went the training programme and during the slightly less busy periods we slipped away to the Wensleydale area for a little walking to break in the feet and the boots.

As the rest of the Squadron departed for Thetford to abseil out of helicopters we departed for Wales. **Sig Jason Lloyd** did the driving and provided some background music on the gearbox of the minibus. After a short break in Abergavenny we snatched a few hours sleep before the 0230 hrs reveille and 0500 hrs start.

It was a hard climb to Checkpoint 1 (of 9) up Pen-y-Fan with **Cpls Al Higgins, 'Trib' Slaney** and **Sig 'Dickie' Bird** having second thoughts about disobeying the first rule of survival in the Army and volunteering for this.

We progressed quietly and steadily to Checkpoint 4 where we had a much needed sock change and feed before marching on. There was little conversation on the way, only the off key sound of **Cpls Slaney** and **Smith** trying to sing.

As the end came in sight the expressions changed from pain to relief and on the whole team crossing the line there was a tremendous feeling of achievement. We finished 10th out of 17 with a time of 12 hrs 45 mins. This was better than the previous year and will give my successor a worthwhile target.

JUNIOR NCOs CADRE

The Squadron held a JNCO Cadre from 9-20 May to improve the skills of 17 of the Squadron. The course went very well and **LCpl Clive Whitehouse** is congratulated on being top student. The final phase of the course was an infantry skills exercise on Catterick Training Area, a report follows.

At 0330 hrs the students were rudely awakened by **Lt Andy Duncan**. Bleary eyed they paraded outside Radio Tp. The troop deployed well and was soon on the way to its first location. The position was occupied and everyone dug in and started the usual routine of patrols. During these patrols they found **Sgt Terry Gigg** 'bogged in' and **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood** running around with **Cpl Steve Haresign** dressed as foreign bird watchers.

There then followed an eventful night. After a demonstration of the effects of various pyrotechnics the troop settled down for the night, only to find themselves under chemical attack followed by a heavy infantry assault. The position was abandoned and on the way to the new position the students were eventually ambushed.

The next day was spent resting prior to the live firing section attacks. The dry runs went well but unfortunately the actual attacks had to be cancelled because of poor visibility. After a long march we reached a new location and again dug ourselves in guarding a vital installation.

The installation was attacked that night by **Cpl 'Trib' Slaney** who claims he totally destroyed it. Next day the students were on the move again; this time for some leadership tasks, followed by a very long CFT under the gentle supervision of **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith**.

The CFT marked the end of the exercise, much to the relief of the students. It was the opinion of the DS that all those who took part performed very well and are to be congratulated on their results.

The Dirty Dozen
The JNCO Cadre Course during their field exercise

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFSHORE REGATTA

Shortly after the arrival of the new 2IC a new phrase came into the vocabulary of the Squadron . . . Offshore Sailing Exercise. Many people have suggested that this phrase is closely connected with the word Skiving, but as you will see this is not strictly true. The Squadron entered a team for the Corps Regatta held in the Solent from 17-23 May and a report follows.

TUESDAY

We left Catterick at 1445 hrs after various trips around town collecting important nautical supplies—the sort that come in cases of 24. On the way to 21 Maritime Regt Gosport, we stopped off at RAF Brize Norton to pick up the elusive **Sig Steve Pritchet** who had just delivered a vehicle there.

Next day at 0830 hrs. On the road again to JSASTC to find our yacht (large dinghy) called *Rampart*. We took over the boat and stocked up with enough food for a trip to Australia. After a few attempts at tying knots we set sail for Cowes. **LCpl Glen King** proceeded to call for Hughie no less than three times before we were halfway to Cowes.

We eventually arrived at Cowes having gained our sea legs on the way. Tied up, ate, and retired . . . an exhausting but enjoyable day.

We left Cowes at 0830 hrs the following morning bound for Newtown River, very little wind . . . sunbathing time! Eventually anchored at Newtown for lunch. After lunch still no wind so eventually we retired from the race having got within 10m of the finish line only to be carried backwards by the tide. Spent the night in Lymington.

Next day up at 0730 hrs for a race at 0900 hrs. No wind to sail with, just the tide to push us along. After a long and arduous morning sunbathing we eventually got some wind and started to move along quite nicely. Despite all our efforts we only managed to finish fifth.

SATURDAY

Saturday was spent chasing only two other yachts around the Solent. At one point we were in second place only to hit the no wind situation again. After drifting around the same spot for four hours it was decided to drop the anchor and pause for lunch. Lunch came and went, and so did all the other boats. We eventually motored into Yarmouth. After we had docked it was up with the dinghy, which was tested by **Sig Bill Pritchet** without much success.

We paddled across to watch the SOinC name the new Corps yacht *Quicksilver*, after which our gruesome twosome **Cpl John Dick** and **LCpl Glen King** were trusted to move the shining new boat to her berth. The day ended with a dinner in the Royal Solent Yacht Club and a short tour of the town.

SUNDAY

Sunday was a totally different day from all the others, plenty of wind and waves. Donning safety harnesses and oilskins we left for Gosport. Once we left the shelter of the harbour we knew it was going to be rough. Water was being splashed everywhere, making us look like drowned rats wishing they could leave the sinking ship.

Then came the thing we dreaded most . . . taking down the foresail. So the gruesome twosome edged forward to the sail, only to have **Capt Hearn** head the boat straight into the waves, making them both extremely wet and bruised. While the GT were hanging on for dear life the Captain was in hysterics watching them from the comfort of the cockpit, until a huge wave crashed down on the back of his neck too.

MONDAY

Most of Monday morning was spent cleaning the boat ready for handing back. This was followed by a late breakfast before heading back to sunny Catterick.

The crew would like to thank **Capt Hearn** for a very enjoyable week and JSASTC for trusting us with one of their boats. For those who havn't worked out how one gets a hedgehog with a cold onto a boat listen to one of these little creatures one cold, wet night and you will notice that it's sneeze sounds just like a can of beer being opened.

EXERCISE ESCAPING EAGLE

Our final report is of the Squadron challenge pursuit camp held at Jurby Training Camp on the Isle of Man from 26 May-2 June. After a great deal of uncertainty the ferry strike ended and it was confirmed that we were going to the island. A group of 49 travelled across and upon arrival were split into three sections. Each section spent a day climbing/canoeing, another on watersports, and a third walking the 28 mile route of the Millennium Way. Here are reports from the sections.

THE DS SECTION

As we all got off the boat at Douglas Ex Escaping Eagle had all the ingredients of a successful summer camp, plenty of sunshine and 49 smiling faces looking forward to a little adventure and relexation.

The exercise would not have been the success that it was without the presence of some of the DS. For example **SSgt Niel Bartlett** our very useful arabic speaker who organised the watersports. **Cpls Dennis** and **Squire** kept the canoeing running smoothly; and **Capt Hearn** and **LCpl King** helped people to fall off rock faces.

LCpl Crossley acted as driver for the walking parties and the cooks, under the watchful eye of **Sgt Les Penaluna**, kept the hunger pangs at bay with excellent meals and a splendid barbecue on the last evening.

With **Sig Jim Pattison** as our acting SQMS and the SSM, **Lts Duncan** and **Fletcher** leading the walking along the Millennium Way only one member of the DS team remains unmentioned. Does anyone know what **Capt Mick Besant** actually did all week?

1 SECTION

Shortly after our arrival in Jurby we sustained our first injury, **Sig Clarke** twisted his ankle playing football and spent the rest of the week limping around. With only 11 men left we tackled the watersports, including surf-skiing and paddling around in a ringo, a large round rubber dinghy. **Sig Aitken** proved to be quite a star in the ringo.

The second day was spent rock climbing and canoeing, and brought us our second injury. **Cpl Rick Wicking** saw fit to let go of one rock face and swing into another back first. Let us say that he was advised to sit on a rubber ring for a couple of weeks.

The Millennium Way, the Isle of Man's longest walk was tackled on the third day. Twenty-eight miles over the roughest terrain the island has to offer. We reached the 16 mile point, had a glass of ale and decided to change into training shoes for the last lap. The medical minibus left us to return to camp with our boots, as it pulled out of sight **Sig Everitt** announced that both his trainers and boots were on board. **Everitt** eventually returned to camp by taxi. The rest of the section carried on to the finish.

2 SECTION

After an uncomfortable crossing in the tin bath known as the IOM ferry, we arrived. We started with the Millennium death march to find that the pub at the half way point had extended drinking hours . . . Oh dear (in future the DS will plan more carefully).

Next day was spent sightseeing around the island and improving our suntans. This was followed by a day of waterskiing with some star performances from **LCpl Arthur** and **Cpl Slaney**.

Then a day running up and down rock faces and being thrown off of 20ft harbour walls in canoes, great fun. The final day consisted of a five man relay race. Each section entered a team and each man had to run four miles, the DS team somehow managed to win.

3 SECTION

The section performed courageously on the watersports in spite of the cold weather and water. The climbing and canoeing were enjoyable and **Cpl Dennis** is voted chief sadist for hurling people backwards off the harbour wall in their canoes.

Then there was the walk. By the time the Section had moved to the start point the mist had descended which naturally started **LCpl Clive Whitehouse** chuntering, but presented more of a challenge for our leader **Lt Duncan**.

The first eight miles passed quickly and painfully as they were almost all uphill. The mist kept us from enjoying the view and even obscured the marker posts at one point. After cries of 'let's bin it sir' from the troops, and 'no, this is all good character building stuff' from **Lt Duncan** the posts reappeared and we carried on to the village of Crosby and a glass of foaming nectar. The sun appeared, the feet throbbed and yet we carried on. We finally reached Castletown only to find that the pubs were shut because of Sunday licensing laws! . . . and finally a message from the Chief Clerk.

Of the 49 people on Summer Camp 30 tried their hand at water-skiing and managed to get pulled either on top of our through the water with or without skis. Although the temperature was somewhat below mediterranean standards the wet suits helped to keep us warm and once you are receiving a 30mph bath all thoughts of the cold disappear.

Sig Bob Armstrong striding ahead with 1 Section on the Millennium Way

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

SERGEANTS' MESS Vs OFFICERS MESS RUGBY

It was early in January that an innocent young **2Lt Timothy Allen** challenged the much older and bigger **SSgt (FofS) Gig Plumb** to a duel. It was only after the (FofS) had growled at the six stone weakling that **Mr Allen** offered the services of 'his' mess members bodies in the affray. A date was set, called off until the Officers' Mess could no longer find excuses. The 21 April saw their demise.

WO1 (RSM) Licence was to lead the might of his mess from the fullback position, against the now cowering Officers' Mess. Surprisingly the officers put out a full 15 with another 5 on the line, unfortunately the CO and the Adjutant had other things on. The AAdjt **Lt Colby WRAC** wanted to 'hook' but hid at the last minute.

And so it happened; the much older and heavier pack of the Sergeants' Mess with a little known set of backs (all footballers ugh!) faced a spirited young Officers side who though fitter looked certain to succumb to the might of the Sergeants' Mess forwards.

The whistle went and within minutes the Officers' Mess forwards had broken through and **2Lt Simon Spiers** had scored a try. How, we will never know. But the SNCO's still had their best cards to play, a scrum on average a stone heavier than their opposition and a yet untried back division with a sniping scrum half in **SSgt (YofS) Joe Murray**.

Some excellent positional kicking by **SSgt (SQMS) Ian Brereton** at fly half enabled the Sergeants' Mess to capatilise on some out of position Officers and the Sergeants' Mess pulled back. At this stage it seemed that kicking would be the mould of the game with **Capt Ray Carolin RAEC** kicking one way, then **SSgt Ian Brereton** returning the kick.

The first scrum happened and it was noticed that the Sergeants would not have it their own way—with some really excellent propping by **Lt Pat Evans** and **Maj Sturdy RAOC** and locking by **2Lt Kinnaird** and **2Lt Fraser**. How long would this last? About 20 minutes into the game **Capt 'Dougie' Lewis RE** decided to leave his hooking role and go airborne. Off he went to hospital. **2Lt Simon Spiers** moved in and from then on it was a hard tussle for set piece possession.

The line outs were all one way with **Sgt 'Smurf' Driver RCT** remembering the **Gig Plumb** calls and some excellent taking by **WO2 (RQMS) Ramsey McDonald** (1 BW) plus **Sgt John Graham RAPC**, giving **Joe Murray** good possession.

The Officers tried hard and whilst leading the game for most of the time they then made a silly mistake. **SSgt Ian Brereton** kicked a 45 yarder to touch. The fast man of the Sergeants back row, **SSgt Dave Bryan RCT** and the loose head **SSgt Trev Jenkins** got there first. **Dave Bryan** threw in and **Trev Jenkins** put the ball down to score a classic try. The Sergeants' Mess where in front.

A lot of good play was then seen. **Capt 'Smillie' Whitehead** (R Signals) gaining good possession from his pack to feed **Capt Carolin** and then **2Lt Tim Allen**, only to be sliced down by the RSM hungry for blood. Even when the ball did get to the Officers Wing **WO2 (SSM) 'Frankie' McCormick** was there to chop them down with some outstanding tackling.

SSgt (YofS) Joe Murray feeds the Sergeants Mess backs while Capt Keith Whitehead tries to close him down

By now the Officers' Mess had used their full complement of replacements (five) and still the older men held on. Both **Capt Carolin** and **SSgt Brereton** attempted and missed simple looking kicks and the game could have gone either way.

But with loud cheers from the unbiased supporters and referee **Cpl Billy Allan RAPC** blew the whisle, thanks **Bill**. The Sergeants' Mess had run out the winners by 17 pts to 15 pts.

Marvellous, we could now retreat to the Sergeants' Mess for a buffet and drinks. There the presentation (by the CO **Lt Col Truluck**) of the SB (suitably bruised) cup was received by **Gig Plumb** on behalf of the Sergeants' Mess.

The triumphant Sergeants Mess team

THOUGHTS OF IRON CHARGE

On the first day of Iron Charge
My SSM said to me
You are QRF IC

On the second day of Iron Charge
My SSM said to me
You are doing Admin
And also the QRF IC

On the third day of Iron Charge
My SSM said to me
Write out the Guard List
And you're doing the Admin
And also the QRF IC

On the fourth day of Iron Charge
My SSM said to me
Put out the Tac Signs
Write out the Guard List
And you're doing the Admin
And also the QRF IC

On the fifth day of Iron Charge
My SSM said to me
Move the bogs
Put out the Tac Signs
Write out the Guard List
And you're doing the Admin
And also the QRF IC

2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Keith Goodfellow**
2IC	**Capt Keith Whitehead**
OC Oscar Tp	**2Lt Tim Allen**
OC Romeo Tp	**2Lt Simon Spiers**
OC Tango Tp	**2Lt Brian Alderson**
YofS	**SSgt Joe Murray**
FofS	**SSgt Gig Plumb**
SQMS	**SSgt John Bell**
Sqn Clk	**Sig Nixon**
SSM	**WO2 McCormick**

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Sgt 'Baz' Egan** and his wife **Caroline** to yet another tour in the Iron Div. **Baz** has already been caught not talking about how it used to be in his day in 2 Sqn! We also welcome **LCpls 'Popeye' Ellis** and **Pugh**.

DEPARTURES

It was with a tear in the eye that we said 'eyup see ya later' to **2Lt Brian Alderson**. The owner of 'the Shack' also had a tear in his eye and it is unlikely that we'll have another 'bash' in there for a while. **2Lt Alderson** is leaving us to go to 'The Temple of Doom' to embark on his Troop Commanders course, where he will be told about how everything is done in BAOR! His barbecue was enjoyed by everybody apart from himself as he wasn't there!

Congratulations are in order for **Sgt Andy Craig** who has passed his Yeoman of Signals selection board. He is now trying to get to grips with managing the Wavell before leaving the Regiment in September.

FofS 'Oi' Plumb is going to 7 Sig Regt.

STAFF COLLEGE DEMONSTRATION—EXERCISE IRON CHARGE

May was taken over by these two glorious exercises in Sennelager and around Holzminden. There isn't too much to relate as they weren't particularly amusing exercises. However, **Capt Keith Whitehead** did smile about a couple of his Div main locations, even if the comms plans crew had to have the subtlety of his humour explained to them. The Sqn 2IC has finally managed to generate a whirring noise simultaneously as he speaks on his SCRA to give the impression that he's mobile to yet another location and not in fact outside the local 'brattie stand'.

It is with regret that we announce the loss of **SSgt Trev Jenkins**. Poor **SSgt J** has gone to the long clockwork course in Pirbright where he is undoubtedly continually 'cutting about the position in double quick time'. We wish him luck, especially with the bedblocks. Oscar Tp aren't particularly looking forward to his return as he might shout at people! Be careful out there.

3 SQUADRON ON PAROLE

Those of you who have been here recently will know that there is a large new buildng nearing completion, which has entailed a move around within the Regiment, most noteworthy of which was the release of 3 Sqn from the old Prison, to occupy buildings previously occupied by LAD.

The Squadron is settling in quickly and as we now have garages in which to work, rain no longer stops play! It is good to see that 3 Sqn has moved nearer to RHQ and left the remainder of the Communicating Squadrons in prison.

HIGHLIGHT ON SUPPORT TROOP

OC	**Capt G. M. Smith**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Williams**
MT	**Sgt Driver (RCT)**
Tech Wksps	**SSgt (FofS) Driver**
Power Section	**Cpl Stoker**

Until December 1986, 3 Sqn only consisted of Troops, however, Support Tp is up, running and alive. Having escaped from the prison, we are now settled into the main barracks.

For those that are not in the know, Support Tp was formed from the elements of the other Troops and now boasts the only female of the Squadron, **WPte Donna Stuart** now **Mrs Double**, who leaves us shortly for a posting with her husband.

TECH WORKSHOP

On the move of 3 Sqn, Tech Workshops managed to escape from the Prison Rotunda to a luxury apartment vacated recently by the LAD.

Firstly welcome back to our resident 'Gladiator' **Cpl 'Mal' Pavier** who after three months Regimental skiing came back in time for the exercise season. He is at present on a canoe instructors course!

Congratulations are due to several members of our team. Firstly to **Sgt Huw Phillips** who returned recently from Blandford after being selected for the Foreman of Signals course No 59. Secondly to **LCpl Andrew Rose** on his engagement, we wish him and **Gaby** all the best for the future and to **Cpl McKenna** on his promotion.

Finally welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Steve Driver** who arrived from the School of Signals at the beginning of the year, and farewell to **Cpl 'Sandy' Beech** who leaves for Catterick to complete his T1 upgrading course.

POWER SECTION

A big hello is sent to **LCpl Campbell** as he starts his tour of duty with 3 Sqn Power Det.

PERSONALITIES

Cpl Gaz Stoker
LCpl Hamish Campbell
Sig Niall O'Brien
Sig Jim Hamill
Sig Will Whitelaw

LCpl Jones (3 Sqn) demonstrates that Cbt Pmn are not excused from antenna erection

MT SECTION

After joining the Squadron and taking responsibility for the MT side of life, it is now down to me to write a few words of wit, wisdom, congratulations and disappointment. As the latter has already been dealt with and that in itself also deals with the former, it leaves me only two more to mention.

First of all congratulations to **Sig 'Woody' Wood** on assuming the responsibilities that being a father will bring. And congratulations to **Sig 'Georgie' Ahmed** for keeping a smile on his face when repainting the garage walls. Also, not to be left out, our only remaining Driver **Sig Scott** who thinks he is leaving us soon on posting to 2 Div.

Cpl Wright taking his panzer on the train

204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

Most of May was spent on exercise. The Squadron provided the Brigade Headquarters for the Staff College Demonstration at Sennelager and enjoyed playing host to a variety of distinguished visitors, including some Eastern Block military attachés. The highlight of the week, though, was the dazzling success of the bockwurst stand run with suspicious commercial acumen by **Sgt Bob Dunne**, ably assisted by **LCpl John Sennett** and the rest of the Admin team, who also organised a popular selection of training films, mostly involving Clint Eastwood. Straight from that we went on to Ex Iron Charge, when the retiring 2IC, **Capt David Jones**, left an unforgettable mark on the Squadron by putting the Brigadier's caravan squarely across the loading bay through which, at 0300 hrs, a large number of very vocal pigs were to be driven into a lorry. They seemed not too pleased, but their mood was nothing compared to that of the Commander who, after he had been woken by a truculent German lorry driver, was told, in between the juicy Westphalian invective, to move his vehicle.

From Iron Charge a fair proportion of the Squadron passed straight on to the Brigade Trainer at Sennelager. This is less an exercise in communications than adminstration and **SSgt Geoff Williams** and his team, **LCpl Benny Bentley, Sig Steve Lynch** and **Huw Jones**, did a splendid job in kicking all the crises firmly into touch, as well as carrying out an interesting sociological study into the illegal parking habits of Gunner Officers. It was perhaps an eloquent comment on the Squadron's life during this first three weeks of May that we achieved the fastest ever clear-up and handover of the Brigade trainer before returning to Munster for some well-earned rest, heavily disguised as catching up on all the work that was waiting for us.

The main sporting achievement of this period has been the participation in the Biel/Bienne 100km march, on 3/4 June, by a team consisting of: **SSgt 'Robbo' Robinson, Sig Steve Newman, Steve Lynch, Ivor Hawkins, Steve Wilkes, Dvr Chris Stephens RCT** and **Pte Philip Harrison RPC**.

This march, in the foothills of the Swiss alps, is one of the major European marching events, and we entered three teams of two in the military patrol class, and one individual. After a 10 hour trip in the Squadron minibus (no mean achievenment in itself!) the team was accommodated in a Swiss civil defence bunker, and discovered to their astonishment that there were in all 3,666 entrants for the march. The start, at 2200 hrs on 3 June was in light drizzle, all went very well for the first 10km or so, with our runners well up with the leaders. However, at 2330 hrs the hosepipe was turned on, and torrential rain carried on throughout the night and all next day. The tracks became very muddy, and many competitors dropped out through injury, cold and general exhaustion. Several of our runners were forced to drop out through injury having completed a large part of the very testing course, but **Ivor Hawkins, Steve Lynch** (both 16 hrs 23 mins) and **Chris Stephens** (16 hrs 50 mins) made it to the end and received their medals. Interestingly, Spain was very successful in the military patrol class, with patrols first and third. Their times of around nine hours were pretty pedestrian by comparison with the overall winner who came in at 6 hrs 57 mins. All in all a great effort by our team, especially as we had had such little training. We shall return next year (probably with umbrellas) and hope to do better knowing the course and its special demands.

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Andy Grey**
2IC	**Capt Viv Thatcher**
OC A Tp	**Capt Mike Stapleton**
OC B Tp	**Capt Jim Morley-Kirk**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) McAleer**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Parry**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Boxhall**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Lamb**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Glossop**

WELCOMES

We would like to welcome to the Squadron **LCpl Samosa** and **Sig Carr** from 7 Sig Regt, **Pte Courtenay RPC, Cfn Royle REME** and **LCpl Bleasdale** on his return from a Roulement tour in Northern Ireland.

DEPARTURES

The Squadron would like to thank the following for all their hard work during their tour with us, **SSgt (SQMS) Lamb** posted to 33 Sig Regt (V), **Sig Hewitt** posted, on promotion, to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, **LCpl Rushton** to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and to **Sig Pritchett** to 249 (AMFL) Sig Sqn on promotion.

BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES

Congratulations to **LCpl Bill** and **Mrs Lorraine Scott** on the birth of their daughter **Nicola**, also congratulations to **Cpl Ian Burt** and his wife **Sarah** on their marriage which took place on 21 May.

EXERCISE IRON CHARGE

This annual CPX has come and gone again. The Squadron started in great style by deploying in a white bus and a handful of tank transporters from the new transporter unit, certainly the only way to travel.

Forward looked as if they were going to be doing the usual round of 'get set up, but the Staff never arrived'. It didn't last. After a number of rare SOP moves, Forward received the ultimate culture shock and became Main. **Sgt Roy Boulton**, on his first armoured exercise as Troop Sgt, fell squarely in at the deep end but splashed enough to keep heads above water.

After a busy week's exercise we tracked home in the sunshine. **LCpl Rushton**'s 'Rogue Radio Relay' had an enjoyable journey as he became a 'free runner', and the Squadron is still looking for flares from **Sgt Roy Boulton**'s packet!

ST ANDREWS GOLF

It started off as a joke over a year ago when **Cpl Hamish Hermiston** said to the rest of the 206 golfing fraternity 'when we retire you can all come to my house in St Andrews and we'll play the old course'. **Sgt Nick Hawley** detailed **Cpl Hermiston** to organise it and he proved to be just the man for the job. Early 1988 saw accommodation booked with the 'Clan Hermiston' and their off-spring in St Andrews. Letters were written to various club secretaries in Scotland and tee reservations made. April was chosen as this was the quietest time in the 3rd Division training programme. To start with, the nominal roll looked something like:-

206 Sig Sqn:	**Cpl Hamish Hermiston** **LCpl Bruiser Harriott**
202 Sig Sqn:	**WO2 (SSM) Phil Gussett Budden** **Sgt Nick Hawley** (late of 206)
21 Sig Regt:	**SSgt Pete Grainger** (late of 206)
19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn:	**Sgt Stu Read** (also late of 206)

Unfortunately, due to unforseen circumstances, **LCpl Harriott** and **Sgt Read** had to pull out, but were ably replaced by **Sgt Dave Tennick** from 202 Sig Sqn and 1 'Civvy' attached **Mr Terry Grainger**.

After a few minor hiccups on the journey to Scotland, did you know there were two Venlo's in Holland?, and is there a toll-bridge near Newcastle?, quotes heard on the first night, it was also noted that the 'Scottish Police are really friendly, they always seem to be taking photographs'. After a couple of pints of the local heavy stuff everyone retired to bed.

Day one started at Carnoustie Championship Course at a mere 6,931 yds SSS 74, this was a piece of cake for the Iron Div Thrashers (the ones that finished the course that is!) Day two, the big day, Old course St Andrews only 6,566 yds SSS 72. The night before, St Andrews had the most rain it had had for 50 years so we were all a bit worried whether the course would be playable—we shouldn't have worried, the course workers were out at first light and the course was in tip top condition. Pity about the golf!

Day three. North Berwick (west) Golf Course 6,297 yds SSS 70. You could feel 'Golf' as you entered the Clubhouse, it was literally steeped in history. **WO2 Phil Budden** is beginning to come into his own, shinning the course in the morning but being 'Skinned' playing with **Sgt Nick Hawley** and **SSgt Pete Grainger** and **Cpl Hamish Hermiston** in the afternoon. The day was finished off nicely at the local St Andrews Pizzeria with **SSgt Dave Tennick** beginning to get his swing into the groove.

The remaining two days were finished off by playing the remaining St Andrews courses and some shopping for the golf widows. After a couple of much needed days R&R the lads were all back swinging at the Royal Signals BAOR Spring Meeting held at RAF Bruggen Golf Club. **Cpl Hamish Hermiston** was told by **SSgt Pete Grainger** everyone would RV at the Golf Club at 2000 hrs. So **Cpl Hermiston** relayed the message to **Cpl Steve Martin** '2000 hrs Golf Club', unfortunately **Cpl Martin** was at RAF Bruggen whilst everyone else was at RAF Wildenrath! Quote on the first tee from **Cpl Martin** 'I've been stood up by a few women in my time, but never by two blokes'!

Congratulations to the following on their results at the Spring Meeting:-

WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden Stableford event
SSgt Pete Grainger Stableford Event
Cpl Hamish Hermiston and **LCpl Andy Harriott**, Regimental Greensome Runners Up to 21 Sig Regt.

Book now for La Manga next year!

MORRISON CUP ATHLETICS

Once again the annual Athletics competition appeared on the calendar and **SSgt (FofS) Dave Boxhall** was entrusted with putting a team together. Assisted by **LCpl Tony Edwards** a team was formed and training began in earnest. At this point it was noticed that the MT section could never be found in work. You may ask 'what's new?'. They were eventually traced wrapped around tug-of-war ropes on the sports pitches.

The event was held in the Sports Stadium at Sennelager. The Squadron Athletics team finished a very creditable fourth. Notable performances came from **LCpl Edwards** and **Cpl Tony Howard**. The team events and positions are shown below:-

LCpl Edwards	100m—first, 400m—first
Cpl Howard	200m—second
Sig Emmett	400m—fourth
Sig Hill	800m—fourth
Sig Shand	1,500m—fifth
Sig Treen	5,000m—ninth
Sig Boucher	Long Jump—fourth, High Jump—sixth
Cpl Gillespie	Triple Jump—sixth
LCpl Bowers	Javelin—sixth
Cpl Fletcher	Shot and Discus—fourth

The Tug-of-War team under **Sgt Steve Osman** excelled themselves, being the only minor unit team to reach the semi-finals. They were beaten by 4 Div, the eventual winners.

BAOR TUG-OF-WAR

After some hard training and success in the Morrison Cup we entered this competition with high hopes. Unfortunately **Sig Davies** sustained an injury in the first pull of the 640kg and the team had to withdraw. The 560kg team did extremely well and came runners up in Plate competition. The team consisted of: **Cfn Royle, Sig Jones, LCpls Seaforth, Crown, Pte Suttenwood, Sig Carr, Yeates** and **Barr**.

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4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Ian Griffiths** and Jasper
2IC Sqn	**Capt Donald Macaulay**
OC C Tp	**Lt Jon Cole**
OC K Tp	**Lt Phil Davies**
OC J Tp	**Lt Paul Vingoe**
OC P Tp	**2 Lt Paul Bosher**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) P. Halstead**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) R. M. Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt G. A. C. Cottington**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) M. P. Purves**

Over the last few months 1 Sqn has been hard at work preparing for the 'silly season'. February and March seemed to fly by with Ex Flying Falcon, Ex Close Encounter/Crested Eagle (Wintex) occupying most of the time.

The Squadron performed well in these with Node 'International Rescue' 044 and Node 'its finally working' 074 providing the talking points. Node 044 travelled the length and breadth of the battlefield while 054 and 064 were deemed far too important to move. The question on everyone's lips, especially in 044 and 074, was 'what move again? . . . why? . . . oh the Brigades want our location! . . .'. On the exercise we had our fair share of invisible personalities.

Congratulations go to **Lt Dave Hix, Sgt Ken Sykes** and **LCpl 'Daz' Barrowman** for their efforts in the Langlauf.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to **Maj Ian Griffiths** and his wife **Peta**, plus the black labrador Jasper. Farewell to **Lt Tony Burgin**, his wife **Cathy** and baby **Gemma**. Panther Tp say goodbye to **Cpl Allen** who departs for 22 Sig Regt and welcome to **Cpl Hedland**.

KIWI TROOP
EXERCISE MAINBRACE

Kiwi Tp has recently seen a major change of 'hierarchy' with **Lt Phil Davies** and **SSgt Brian Hair** taking over from **Lt Tony Burgin** and **SSgts Ian Emmerson** and **Bill Garn**. Not to be outdone, **Sgt Bill McCann** (recently returned to Herford after spending three months at the Regiment's ski hut) and new arrival **Sgt Simon Tatman**, competed for the 'Golden Blanket' on Ex Mainbrace, both requiring new sleeping bags during the exercise! Guess why.

CHEETAH TROOP

Cheetah Tp has welcomed **2Lt Cole, SSgt Charlie Dubique** and **Cpl 'Taff' Maul**. Farewells were said at a troop party to **Lt Dave Hix** and **LCpls Hedley** and **Rothera**.

Trunk Node 054 became the Regimental leisure centre during Ex Mainbrace, when manpower was adjusted slightly to form a 'tug-of-war Node'. This included the withdrawal from the exercise for the teams' successful participation in the Divisional Tug-of-War Championships. Congratulations to **Sgt Kev Jenkins** for finding such good practice areas in his recce!

The 1 Sqn Tug-of-War Team run by WO2 (SSM) Pete Halstead

Maj Ian Griffiths showing them how it should be done

CHARITY CAR WASH

Just as I thought it would be safe to park my car outside 1 Sqn, after an exhausting shopping trip in Bielefeld, out popped mad **Maj Griffiths** and kindly offered my services as a car wash attendant for the day. So off I went with bucket and sponge after putting on the appropriate dress (T-shirt and shorts) to Herford Military Car Sales who had kindly given us the use of their forecourt now known as the 'washdown' to wash all the cars that were brought our way. My car took priority and got washed first while **Cpl Adie West** went looking for unsuspecting customers with dirty cars in the Naafi complex and 'smooth-talked' quite a few of them into using our service. Who could complain? A bratty, a cup of tea or coffee and your car washed—all for DM5. All the money raised went to sponsor **WO2 'Barny' Barnish**'s Save the Children Charity World Record Walk Attempt.

As the weather was so good we decided, as a side line, to have a human body wash (just amongst ourselves of course!) which ended with **Maj Griffiths** having to empty his wellies.

2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj M. J. Dent MBE**
2IC	**Capt N. J. Borrill**
OC A1	**2Lt P. S. Cubbin**
OC A3	**2Lt S. Gregory**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) B. C. Howe**
SQMS	**SSgt Selkirk**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Stoddart**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Minton**
SSgt R Tech	**SSgt Jamieson**
MT	**Sgt Enfield**
	Sgt McGowan
	Cpl Stobbs

Despite spending a commendable amount of time re-arranging the Radio Stores wagon, the SQMS, along with his band of merry men (**Sig Andy Marrit** and **Sig Mick Concepcion**), still found time to express their artistic talent, and with inspiration and drive **WO2 (SSM) Brian Howe** created the DPM 'Tardis'. This 'guard box in disguise', 'regrettably' commented the OC, actually lasted the hectic pace of the exercise and will no doubt make its second appearance during Ex Mainbrace.

Finally, thanks must go to **Sig 'Robo' Robson** who, yet again supplied the invaluable service of an ex Stickies Bar.

2 SQUADRON
A1 TROOP

Without further ado, A1 Tp would like to extend its heartiest congratulations to **Sig Steve Pickering** for managing to get his Panzer and run off without paying DM30 to the Panzer Fund. Well done **Pickers** . . . now send us the money please.

As the tidal wave that is RSIT came closer so the tension in the Troop mounted. **Cpl Richmond** took to dressing up as a clown and spooking VW Beetles. By the time the wave crashed over the Regiment, A1 Tp came out of the ensuing chaos very well indeed, a tribute to the hard work put in by the men that gladly came to work half an hour early to sweep roads.

There have been a number of well-deserved promotions since the last issue. **'Paddy' McLaughlin** has finally got a stripe after running both Troops' SAS/MC's almost single handed, and both **'Jacks' Jackson** and **Steve Witty** have got their second, congratulations to all three.

With Summer Sales fast approaching the Troop is spending its days laying about on sun loungers, sipping iced Pimms and generally taking a relaxed attitude towards life, the universe and everything in general. **Sig Waring** is currently leading the field in enforced relaxation by ensuring unconsciousness during a Regimental Parade, an achievement even the OC Tp would be hard pushed to better.

Finally, we say goodbye to **Sig Jim Hastie** after eight years in Royal Signals. From A1 Tp goodbye and good luck. A big hand for **Jim Hastie**.

ALPHA 2 TROOP

OC	**Capt Jim Wood**
2IC	**2Lt Graham Addley**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt George Davison**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Geoff Hawkins**

Capt Jim Wood and **2Lt Graham Addley** have obviously been on the same courses; skiing, sailing, athletics and the like are much enjoyed by them. We also welcome **SSgt George Davison** from 7 Sig Regt.

In the latest driving competition, organised by **Sgt Geoff Hawkins, Sig 'Plug' Rayner** found it difficult to command without a headset. **Cpl Ray Lang** and **Sig Neil Wellings** came top, with some impressive manoeuvreing, closely followed by the crews of **LCpl Dave Hart** and **Sig 'Geordie' Nixon** and **LCpl Sean Humphries** and **Sig Kevin Unwin**.

On the miniature range, **Cpl Dave Devine** proved that he can see the targets at 25m by coming second to **Cpl (now Sgt) Herbie Herbert**. The wild west duo of **LCpl Chapman** and **Sig Owens** had better be better with their sixshooters and **LCpl Dave Hart** did manage to get one shot on to the target.

Welcome to **Cpls Ken Shaw** and **Dave Brudenall** transfer-listed from 2 Sqn; welcome back to **Cpl Mick Curtis** and **Sig 'Fitz' Fitzegerald** and **'Moose' Moakes**; congratulations to **Sgt 'Herbie' Herbert** on getting his third stripe and winning a crate from OC A2 Tp; best wishes to **Sig 'Buzz' Pas** and **Nigel Hinton**.

Alpha 2 Troop with—unusually—36 personnel in camp at the same time

ALL NIGHT CHARITY FOOTBALL

In aid of the Barney Barnish Charity Appeal, A2 Tp organised an all-night five-a-side football competition. A2 and B Tps each put in two teams and Line Tp and SHQ made up the numbers and the teams played each other throughout the night. **WO2 (FofS) Dave Brogden** showed that the Australians are not only good at cricket and **SSgt (SQMS) Iain Blacklaw** impressed everyone with his shorts. By the end of the competition, A2 Tp's A-team had come out on top with the Top Goal Scorer going to **Cpl Andy Dick** (again!) despite good performances by **Cpl 'Fully' Fulton** and **Sig John Milne**.

A3 TROOP

Greetings from Herford! Or rather welcome to Herford to **Cpl Phil Headland, LCpls 'J' Parson** and **Shahid Husain** and to **Sig Neil Llewellyn** and **Tim Clemens**. The Troop also welcomes back **Sig Joe Wilson** from the South Atlantic who the older members assure us has lost a lot of weight—really! Meanwhile **Sig Thomas** leaves us temporarily to go and try pancakes and maple-syrup for breakfast across the Atlantic.

Life recently, when not involved with PRE and RSIT, centered around Ex Main Brace. As usual the Troop deployed far and wide. This gave **Cpl Evans** the chance to learn how to move into location—perhaps we will let him have a go on his own in months to come. This skill would not be of much use however to **LCpl Darlington** and **Sig Tim Clemens** who would have been far too exhausted after their initial deployment to ever actually move again. They say practice makes perfect so maybe this is why 3 Alpha move so much less than 1 Alpha. Related to this the Troop would like to thank **Yeoman Peter Stoddart** for his skilful moving of one cluster into the location vacated only minutes before by another cluster. Mother Nature intervened to call him away to the birth of daughter, **Alyson**—congratulations—and **Sgt Dave Mason** stepped into the fray as Plastic Yeoman.

The Troop would also like to announce the adoption of a son, **Browning** to **SSgt Kev Nicholls** who has promised to pamper his own children as much as this newcomer. Talking of newcomers, the Troop bade hello and goodbye to **2Lt Munro** who, by landing three hours late, started as he meant to go on. Rumours that he actually made a Parade are firmly denied.

Additional events have included the Cadre Course attended by **Sig Dick Barton, Gaz Challiner** and our ex-Mod **Mick Concepcion**.

JNCO Cadre Course
CO Lt Col A. J. Schuler presenting Sig Jackson with the top student award for the JNCO's Cadre Course. Sgt Farquharson, the courses' Drill and NBC Instructor, is on the right

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Alan Jones**
2IC	**Capt John Walker MBE**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) John Dent**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dave Brogden RA Signals**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) 'Chippy' Wood**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Iain Blacklaw**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Rob Farquarson RCT**

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

The squadron athletics team had been training hard under **SSgt John Brooks** for the Regimental Athletics Day in April. In all events, the team put in fine performances with the Oz Foz, **WO2 (FofS) Dave Brogden** and **SSgt John Brooks** taking first and second place in the Pole Vault and **Cpl Steve Burrows** and **2Lt Graham Addley** doing the same in the Triple Jump. Other creditable performances were by **Cpl Gaz Pickford** in the 100m, **Sig Vince Saunders** in the High Jump and **Cpl Steve Burrows** in the 400m. The competition hung in the balance until the final relay when 3 Sqn got enough points to win overall.

3 Sqn Inter Squadron Athletics Champions 1988

BRAVO TROOP

OC	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt John Brooks**

Welcome to **LCpl 'Wild' Weston** and **Sig Danny Turner** and goodbye to **LCpl Andy Reynolds** on TRA to Combat Civilian and **Cpl Bob Lawrence** on transfer to TM Tp.

LINE TROOP

OC	**2Lt Ian Walton**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Pete Duffy**

In April **Cpl Jim Revans** and his wife **Sheila** were dined out and presented with a clock from the Troop. This marked 22 years service in the Corps.

In the A2 Tp All-Night Charity Football Competition, Line Tp failed to distinguish themselves. Even our super-star **Cpl 'Fully' Fulton** couldn't save us although some inspired play by **2Lt Ian Walton** saved us from a very embarrassing result.

May saw the Troop deploy on Ex Mainbrace but not before **Sgt Pete Duffy** legged it on his 'Staffies'. That caused a major upset as **Cpl 'Chippy' Davies's** dreams of a cushy exercise were stamped on when he became Admin Sgt and spent the exercise running around like a headless chicken. **LCpl 'Pops' Hope** fared better, starting the exercise as LCpl and ending up as the SQMS!

At Rear HQ, **Cpl Al Sallis** laid so much cable that he ran out of the stuff.

GOODBYES TO

2Lt Walton, Cpl Fulton, LCpls Mulley, Hilton, Sig Acres and **Aitchison.** Best wishes to you all.

L to R: Sig Chauntry, LCpl Thrumble, Sig Niles, Busby, Turner, LCpl Mulley, Cpl Davies, Sig Skerritt, LCpl Hilton, Sig Compton, LCpls Barker, North and Sgt Duffy—farewell to 2Lt Walton

INTER-SQUADRON SEVENS COMPETITION

This year's annual demonstration of rugby prowess was held on a warm spring day in March. Teams from all six Squadrons were joined by two guest teams, a Div HQ team and a collection of old, young and young at heart from the Officers' Mess captained by **2Lt Pete Cubbin.** After an uneasy start to the competition, which saw **LCpl Paul Clark** from 1 Sqn break his arm in the first minute and some bone shaking tackling by HQ Sqn's **LCpl Willy Leggatt,** some fine rugby skills were demonstrated. In a close fought semi-final the Div HQ was beaten by the Officers' Mess thanks to the tackling skills of **2Lt Paul Bosher** (who closely resembled a Sumo Wrestler) and goal kicking ability of the senior player, **Maj Ian Griffiths.** In a closely fought final against HQ Sqn, the Officers' Mess eventually pulled away and **Lt Dave Hix,** looking remarkably like an escaped convict, scored two excellent tries. He obviously tired in the latter stages of the second half as he was passed by both props as they scored break-away tries! Despite their defeat by the 'guest team' HQ Sqn retained the Champion Squadron Cup much to the delight of **LCpl Willy Leggatt**, the team captain.

The Officers' Mess Team
Back Row: 2Lt Ian Walton, Lt Phil Davies, 2Lt Paul Bosher, Lt Dave Hix and Capt Jim Wood
Front Row: 2Lt Jon Cole, Lt Paul Vingoe, 2Lt Pete Cubbin and Maj Ian Griffiths

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

The last few months have been busy. April saw the Squadron deployed as an Infantry Company on Ex Fast Train, designed to test JCB qualities, among other things. Notable events included an assassination attempt by **LCpl 'Boon' Riley** with a strategically placed thunderflash.

A thoroughly enjoyable exercise culminated in an attack on a bridge guarded by members of the Elite Golden Blanket Squad led by **WO2 (YofS) Brown.** The attack could not have taken place without the help of Recce Section, led by **SSgt Charlton.**

May saw Ex Mainbrace, and the publication of a brand new newspaper 'The Daily Gauntlet'. Both the exercise and the paper kept all Squadron personnel amused, the main cogs in both driven by **SSgt Rutter, Sgt Bolam** and **Cpl Brooks.**

We say a sad farewell to various members of the Squadron including **Lt Graham Norton** (off to CCEC at Blandford), **WO2 Mick Orrell** (the Squadron congratulates him on his promotion to WO1 on posting to 31 Sig Regt (V)), **Cpl Les Donno** (who does quite good Phil Collins impersonation, if anybody needs one), **Cpl Ollie Campbell, Robbie Luckhurst, LCpls Mick Lowndes, 'Chalky' White, Jim Reilly, Sig Pat Shalley, Pte Wilson** and **Cpl John Wilson.**

We say hello to **2Lt Jim Forrest, LCpls Jerry Browning, Gaz Howard, Paul Rushen, Sig Jub Duplock** and **Sig Arris.** Also welcome back to **LCpl M. O. Howarth** on completion of his coure at Catterick.

CRICKET

Thursday 2 June saw the Squadron play its first cricket match of the season. It wasn't the result we would have wished for (29 all out in the first innings) but an enjoyable day was had by all; **Lt Jim 'Dickie Bird' Forrest** did an excellent day's umpiring.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

OC	**Maj Ken Hadfield**
2IC	**Capt Paul Hudson**
OC A Tp	**Lt Bert Appleton**
OC B Tp	**Lt Iain Standen**
OC B Tp (Des)	**Lt Jerry Bradshaw**
SSM	**WO2 Roger Fairfield**
YofS	**WO2 Steve Whytock**
FofS	**SSgt Mal Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Herbison**
CC	**Sgt Graham Pollard BEM**

IGB PATROL

Early in March a dozen members of the Squadron departed for a two day Border Patrol on the IGB. Once again it was a case of us taking pictures of them taking pictures etc . . . Everyone enjoyed themselves and all managed to get some good sighting of East German Equipment, uniforms and even a 'Hoplite' Helicopter!

SPORT—HOCKEY

Ably led by the Yeoman, **WO2 Steve Whytock** and **Sgt Rusty Bullock** the Squadron hockey team underwent some intensive training before competing very successfully in the Royal Signals BAOR Hockey Championships.

CROSS COUNTRY

At very short notice a team was entered for the Royal Signals BAOR Cross Country Championships at Herford and once again although no prizes were won an extremely good effort was made by all runners.

VISIT OF LT COL A. J. SCHULER

Following Tels PRE preparation began for exercises Sweet Medicine and Main Brace. The highlight of this period was a day spent on Minden North training area, practising a variety of skills, during which the CO 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt **Lt Col A. J. Schuler** and **WO1 (RSM) G. Harwood** visited the Squadron.

Bravo Tp was undertaking driver training, practising cross country, NBC and closed down techniques with their 436's as well as manoeuvring with the landrovers. After watching the members of the Troops going through their paces the CO and the RSM were invited to don coveralls and 'have a go'. This they did and both proved to be 'dab hands'.

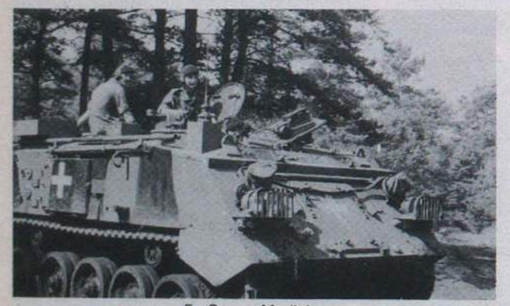
Having finished the driving Alpha Tp put on a demonstration of the decontamination of the Brigade Headquarters following a chemical attack. All aspects of this procedure were covered including cutting **SSgt Barnard** out of his suit! It was then back to Minden for a walk around the barracks, lunchtime drinks and a curry lunch for the Officers and SNCOs to end the visit.

Driver Training Day—The CO 'has a go!'

EXERCISES SWEET MEDICINE/MAIN BRACE

May saw the Squadron deploy under the able command of **WO2 (YofS) Steve Whytock** to the field for two very different exercises. The first Ex Sweet Medicine was a battle group training exercise for the 5 Innis DG battle group, which took place on a very dusty Soltau training area. A number of the Squadron's Panzers deployed by train and provided a battlefield taxi service to enable the umpire staff to control the exercise. This provided an excellent opportunity for the Squadron's drivers to practise their cross-country skills, and all returned extremely dirty and dusty but nevertheless having enjoyed an interesting exercise.

Ex Main Brace saw the Squadron move to the Hamlen area for the annual 4 Div CPX. The scenario of the exercise called for a fair amount of vehicle movement a factor that provided **SSgt 'Taff' Wales** and the members of the LAD with a constant flow of pack lifts and repairs to prevent them from becoming bored. The exercise progressed well with a chemical attack which enabled our procedures to be put to the test with success. The scale of the exercise area caused the Yeoman, **WO2 Steve Whytock**, a few headaches; however, the communications proved successful and an enjoyable exercise was had by all.



Ex Sweet Medicine

SHOOTING

After a considerable amount of practice the Squadron Shooting team competed in the 4 Armd Div skill-at-arms meeting. Despite some excellent opposition, the team managed second place in both the SLR and SMG matches and second in the overall Minor Unit Championships. We can now send a Squadron team to the annual Army-Skill-at-Arms meeting at Bisley in the summer. Individual honours were won by **Pte Bastow** best Class 'B' SMG shot and **Lt Standen** best Class 'B' Pistol shot.

ORIENTEERING

The Squadron has again been active, with the Orienteering team, led by **SSgt Barnard** coming second in the 4 Armd Div Minor Units Championships. Congratulations are passed to the team: **Maj Bairstow, WO2 (YofS) Whytock, SSgt (FofS) Thomas, Cpls Chubb, Allnatt** and **Sig Ward**.

RUGBY

The Rugby team has also been busy with the Royal Signals and 4 Armd Div Rugby Sevens competitions. Although not having a great deal of success the team has performed well and all appeared to have enjoyed the outings.

Finally, we say farewell to **Cpls Al Chalmers, Steve Beeney** and **'Toddy' Todd**. We wish them all the best in the future, especially **Cpl Chalmers** who leaves us for a new life in civvy street.

We also welcome **Lt Jerry Bradshaw** who is to take over as OC B Tp, and **Sgt Dave Shuttleworth**. The numbers of Tech Tp have also been swelled by the arrival of **Cpl Pearson** and **LCpls Pryke, Paul** and **Murrel**. Also **LCpl Chris Cole, Sig Mark Povey** to Bravo and Alpha Tp respectively. Finally, the Pioneer Section welcome **Sgt McEleavey** and **Pte Tunley**.

PARTNERSHIP VISIT WITH 4 CANADIAN MECHANISED BRIGADE GROUP HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Regiment has a long association with 4 CMBG, based at Lahr since 1969, and recently a party visited their Annual Weapons Camp held at Heuberg near the Black Forest. **Sig Owen Williams** was one of those fortunate enough to be selected and sends these comments.

As I returned to the Block having successfully avoided duties for the entire week ahead, I began to relax and think of all the lie ins and sunbathing which lay ahead. Then as I opened the door to the flat I was greeted with 'Good evening **Williams**', '**Evening Sir**' I replied. By now **Lt Davies** OC 064 had reached the landing. 'What are you doing between tomorrow and Friday?'. 'Er nothing? Sir'.

At 0500 hrs Tuesday morning packed and loaded I met **Lt Davies** and some other 'volunteers' in the cookhouse, had a light breakfast and set forth on a journey to the unknown delights of 4 CMBG Weapon Camp, deep in the heart of Southern Germany.

After nearly nine hours on the road we arrived at Heuberg ranges and found that we had missed the afternoon shoot.

Our first meeting with the lads from 4 CMBG Sig Sqn came at evening meal where we all noted their high spirits which lifted ours (when in Rome etc).

Wednesday morning arrived and breakfast at 0630 hrs. Then to the ranges at 0730. **Lt Davies, LCpl Bob Barker, Cpl Chris Rooney** and I were detailed with the C7 party. The C7 being a Canadian version of the 5.56mm M16. After a brief introduction and practice with the weapon we were put with the first relay and spent nearly 45 minutes doing an APWT. Then whisked away to another range where we were told they had a fantastic new weapon, the C6. It turned out to be a GPMG.

Due to their limited amount of 7.62mm ammo we fired only 50 rounds each which disappointed me.

After lunch we went to the M72 range where we found the 66mm Light Anti Tank Weapon.

That evening we managed to field an eight man football team and with three of the Canadians on our side we set up a match which we managed to lose abysmally 11—2 to them.

After swapping 'war stories' until the early hours, we all headed for bed.

The next morning on the ranges the 9mm Browning came out and **Lt Davies** talked about 10 packs. Thirty minutes later and owing **Cpl Rooney** a 10 pack we were downcast at having been beaten.

The afternoon found the 'Brit contingent' spread all over the training area. I was on the C9 range. Its a Belt/Mag fed 5.56mm machine gun. After the Canadians had zeroed their personal weapons we took over and from the 50m point wasted 50 or so rounds from their trip. I managed to hit the target three times!

That evening we formed as a section and went for a night shoot. We were last to go and as we prepared to 'let rip' it started to rain. With two GPMG's, two C9 and four C7's and hundreds of rounds we spent the next 20 minutes under command of **Lt Davies** shooting at targets some of us couldn't even see.

In all we spent three days shooting and meeting the Canadians. It was an enjoyable venture and provided an opportunity to see their army at work and play.

Hopefully some of the lads from 4 CMBG will be able to come up here and see us in the future.

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REGIMENTAL ARU

The Regiment was programmed to receive its ARU inspection by Comd Comms 1 BR Corps, **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE** on 22 April. By coincidence the previous evening the Regiment hosted a prominent member of the Burma Star Association who was here to talk to the Officers of his experiences in prisoner-of-war camps in the Far East. **Brig Waugh** and several members of his staff attended the talk.

At the dinner which followed the Commander dropped his bombshell. The ARU had started. The Officers of the Regiment were 'interned' within the Mess and briefed to conduct a night long series of appreciations, presentations and 'special tasks'. (The best laid plans . . .) Meanwhile, the remainder of the Regiment was roused for an active edge call in; only to find that the management echelons were still otherwise engaged. Nevertheless the Regiment was prepared under the direction of those Warrant Officers and SNCO's the Brigadier had left 'alive' (the dead were locked in offices or given other diverse tasks). By first light vehicles had lined up, loading lists had been inspected and the detachments had been returned to the garages.

The RSM, **WO1 A. Hickling**, was then tasked with staging a full Regimental parade for the inspecting staff. It was to march past in column and line, there was no time for rehearsal so the parade marched on unpractised.

The Brigadier then inspected the members of the Regimental Cadre Course (super siggies) for Signalmen who aim for higher things. The man aiming for the top was **Sig 'Dinger' Bell** of 4 Sqn who won a deserved first place.

To round off the day the Brigadier tasked OC 3 Sqn **Maj Eastland** to arrange a Regimental orienteering competition. Bemused German civilians saw hundreds of men running about the Bismarkturm in as many different directions!

The finished competition saw 1 Sqn taking prizes for the first group, and overall Squadron trophy. The final comment from **Brig Waugh** was a very well done to all involved in the ARU and a promise to remove the Officers from the Regiment more often.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON GOLDEN OLDIE AND FRIENDS

Our photo shows **Capts Graham Ross, Tom Friend, Maj Derek Wood, Capt Mick Banks, Capts John Illingworth** and **Mike Radford**, left of picture background **WO2 (SSM) Jim Reeves**, golden oldie centre of picture, age 53, with a collection of friends who, by comparison, are very young men. The gathering was prior to an 11km run through the woods at the request of **Brig T. I. M. Waugh** during his ARU inspection. **WO2 (SSM) Jim Reeves** is thinking 'I'll have to keep my beadies on this lot' and indeed he ran round the course with the OC, **Maj Wood** and was surprised at the speed at which the run was completed. The whole Regiment did very well indeed and all finished the course.

JNCO CADRE COURSE

The course started on Friday 15 April with the students moving to Rheinsehlen camp north of Soltau. The course of 26 students and 6 DS then settled into their spartan surroundings and prepared for phase 1 of the course.

Saturday morning 0630 hrs and **LCpl Gregory** our tame muscleman beasting us round to shake out the cobwebs. The next three days were spent revising and improving the students knowledge of the basic military skills. During this phase **LCpl Gregory** narrowly pipped **Sgt Stachini** as 'Mr Popularity' thanks to his excellent PT period (not sure about some of his distances).

Phase 2 started at 0330 hrs with **WO1 McArdle** doing the early calls, by 0500 hrs the course was on the move to the Luneburg extension for a 36 hour field exercise. The exercise consisted of minor infantry tactics with each student in turn commanding a section. Section attacks and patrolling went on well into the early hours with navigational skills starting to fall by the wayside. All sections returning to the platoon base by 0230 hrs for some well earned sleep. Sections were up again at 0500 hrs and on the move to their ambush locations by 0630 hrs. After springing their ambushes and 'wasting' the DS several times they boarded their vehicles and moved back to Reinsehlen.

After the clean-up, written tests and TOETs were the order of the day with our very own 'drill pig' **Cpl Gleen Maycock** waiting to get his squad back on the square. Thursday we moved back to Herford to prepare for the final parade on Friday only to be 'called in' in the early hours by **Brig Waugh** as part of the Regimental ARU.

The course marched on to the square at 1000 hrs with Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig Waugh** the inspecting officer; he also presented the award for best student to **Sig Bell** of 4 Sqn.

While the course was parading the training officer **Capt 'Chas' Birchall** was preparing to go on the Regimental orienteering competition with the old and bold; reports say that they should return sometime in June.

The Brigadier inspects the Regimental Cadre Course

Brig Waugh presents Sig Bell with the best student award

PAGE TROPHY ATHLETICS 1988

This year's Inter Squadron Athletics Competition took place on a fine spring day in April. 'Chariots of Fire' music filled the stadium, the RSM's dulcet tones welcomed the gathered throng and all was set for a fine athletic contest.

Many families turned out to enjoy some quality performances, a relaxing lunch, and a few brave souls even entered into the spirit of the occasion by taking part in the wives' and childrens' races.

HQ Sqn finished the day as this year's champion Squadron with 3 Sqn not far behind, followed by 2 Sqn. It was a successful day, due largely to the efficiency of **WO2 (QMSI) Warburton** and his team.

Watch this space 21 Sig Regt. We're after the Morrison Cup! You beat us this year but we'll be back.

LCpl 'Yarbie' Yarborough attempting to Karate kick the photographer!

Capt Elton Davis desperately tries to reach Cpl 'Taff' James to tell him his shoe laces are undone!

Members of 1 Sqn receiving their first place medals
L to R: LCpl Simpson, Sig Clegg, Cpl Higginbottom, LCpl Gregory and Sgt Haslam

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Catterick Garrison

'A' GRADE PRESENTATION

Sig Yafai receiving a print of the Trade Training School from Capt Rattray on the occasion of his receiving 'A' grading

EXERCISE WHITEOUT 1988

On Saturday 5 March, 15 budding 'Eddie the Eagle's' set off from 8 Sig Regt destined for Scotland (The Lecht) to learn to ski, a trip which was for the majority their first taste of an Army training exercise.

Upon arrival we were introduced to our instructor/chaperone for the week **Cpl Frank McGoldrick** who proceeded to issue ski's and boots to the 'potential' Olympic team!

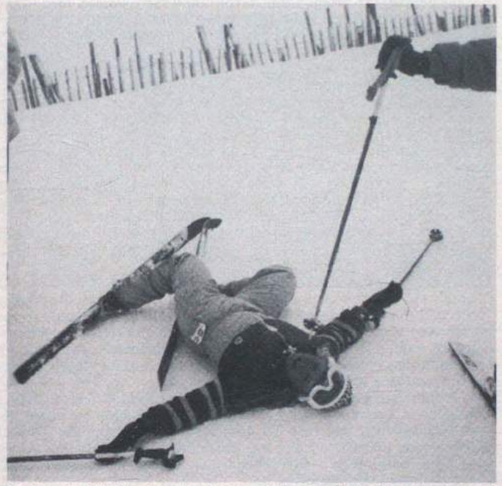
On arrival, 8 Sig Regt's future Olympic team checked out the conditions, some closer than others

Fully kitted out we set off, divided between 4 tonner and minibus kindly driven by **Cpl Dave Bagshaw** and **WO1 (YofS) Carl Storey** (OIC Exercise) on our 'long trek' to the slopes. Once at the Lecht we were split into three groups Novice: **Pte 'Taff' Walters, Sig 'Snake' Allison** and **Steve Leyland**, instructed by **Mr Peter Wheeler**. Intermediate: **Cpl Paula Warrington, Miss Carolyn Brown** (Squadron Typist), **Sig Gaz Roberts, Stu Wright** and **Paul Bradley**, instructed by **Cpl Frank McGoldrick**. Advanced: **Sig 'Suggs' Sutherland, Ferguson** and **Sig Tim Vanadel**, instructed by anyone who could track them down! . . . and away we went!

The rest of the week followed the routine of reveille 0700 hrs, on the slopes by 1000 hrs going up and down all day long (via the pommels) and then back to the Guesthouse for tea, superbly prepared and cooked by our resident chef **Cpl 'Taff' Davies**, just in time to get changed and spend a cultured evening in Aviemore.

The week flew past with only minor accidents. One in particular, **Sig 'Brun' Brundle** decided he didn't like the small fences dividing the slopes and proceeded to dismantle one with his head. He was duly awarded the piece of fence mounted on a block appropriately engraved!

Seriously, a good time was had by all and all students gained their Bronze awards with the exception of **Sig 'Suggs' Sutherland** who gained his Silver.



Cpl Paula Warrington demonstrates how not to do a 'kick turn'

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL
Report by WO2 (RQMS) Dullaghan

The Regiment has reached the end of another mainly successful season. On Wednesday 20 April the Regimental First XI defeated 2 Inf Div Sig Regt in the final of the North Yorkshire Premier Division Cup at the Central Sports Ground Catterick with goals from **Cpl Tony Lucus** and **Sgt Mark Davison**. Other notable performers on the day were **Cpls Billy Grierson** and **'Baggsy' Bain**.

This win, in fact, avenged our first league defeat of the season the week before when 2 Div beat us 4—2. This result ensured that the Regiment finished as league runners up.

Special mention must be made of **Sig Billy Ferrie** who joined us from AA Coll Harrogate halfway through the season. He has been a regular member of the Army Youth Team this season and his efforts were awarded last month when he was selected as Army Youth Player of the Year. Our congratulations to him.

I couldn't possibly finish without a mention for **SSgt (YofS) Phil White** and his band of warriors in the Regimental Second XI but this season they have performed creditably in both league and cup competitions, finishing third in their league, reaching the final of their League Cup (lost 4—1) and the semi-final of the Challenge Shield (lost 3—1). Well done **Phil**, they'll miss you next season. The Regiment's loss is Hong Kong's gain!

Finally I would like to say a personal thank you to all players past and present for their efforts during my time in charge. I shall miss my Wednesday afternoon shouting sessions.

BASKETBALL—THE 1987/88 SEASON
Report by SSgt Trevor Smith

We came, we saw, we (almost) conquered!

The 1987/88 Basketball season began in November in much the same way as any other. The team was in high spirits and eager to play against the other seven teams entered in the Catterick Garrison League.

We began the league season well with convincing wins against 2 Inf Div Tpt Regt and 1 PWO. The Regimental team maintained its winning ways in the North East District League in which we were to play a further seven teams. The standard was not quite as high as last season due to a much weakened AA Coll Harrogate Team and various work commitments for others. Nevertheless, we had some enjoyable encounters in which valuable experience was gained.

With both leagues progressing favourably, 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. 8 Sig Regt won easily. It was unfortunate for 3RRF that our team stood between them and greater success in all three competitions.

And so to the finals of the UKLF Major Units Championships in Aldershot from 24-26 February. With a potentially much stronger team than last season, we were quietly confident after winning our opening games and our 'Pool' with convincing victories over SEE Arborfield and the AA Coll.

We then met the RSA in the semi-finals. At half-time 8 Sig Regt had a 12 point lead due to excellent skills from **Cpls 'AJ' Mattless** and **'Baggsy' Bain**, ably supported and encouraged by **Cpl Rab Mulholland**. This lead did not last long into the second half however, as the RSA team fought back with great enthusiasm and energy, and to our disbelief turned the game to their advantage. The result: 8 Sig Regt 69 pts, RSA 74 pts. Although not the outcome we had hoped for, our final position of third in the competition was a reasonable one.

On our return to Catterick, there was one competition remaining, the Garrison League Knockout, which took place on Wednesday 16 March 1988. After a fine afternoon of sportsmanship and skill the outcome was: first—8 Sig Regt, second—AA Coll Harrogate and third—3 RRF.

The Garrison League was decided on 22 March when once again 3 RRF was beaten into second place by 8 Sig Regt.

The NE Dist League was decided on 25 April and was also won by 8 Sig Regt.

The Basketball season ended on a high note with the following players being awarded Regimental Colours: **Sgts Paul Sexby, Alec Alexander, Cpls 'Baggsy' Bain, 'AJ' Mattless, Sig Ivan Currey, Barry Pickles** and **Rick Scarff**.

8 Sig Regt Basketball Team
Standing L to R: Sgt Alec Alexander, Cpls 'Baggsy' Bain, Rad Mulholland and Ginge Robinson
Kneeling L to R: Cpl A. J. Mattless, Sig Barry Pickles, SSgt Trevor Smith and Sig Ivan Curry
Absent: Sig Rick Scarff and Sgt Paul Sexby

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE SPONSORED WALK

On 23 April six policemen from the South Yorkshire Constabulary walked in to Vimy barracks and received a warm welcome.

They were doing a 70 mile sponsored walk from Barnsley Police Station to 8 Sig Regt. One of the walkers was **PC Millar** who is a former member of the Corps and has served in 8 Sig Regt. **Brig Eastburn** presented the walkers with a cheque and plaques.

The walkers on their way through Vimy Barracks

Brig Eastburn, Col Webster and the six policemen. PC Millar is second from the left

Don't be disappointed!

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BFPO 58

EXERCISE CRETAN ADVENTURE

Ex Cretan Adventure was an adventurous sail training exercise on the Royal Signals Yacht *Parang*, aimed at giving adventurous sail training under arduous conditions, to give instruction to novice sailors and to give an opportunity to qualify for part of the Yachtmasters certificate.

The final crew was selected from 17 applicants, mainly from the WRAC members of the Regiment and comprised:-

Skipper	**Maj J. L. E. Gryspeerdt** (Yachtmaster Offshore)
Watch Leader	**Cpl T. S. Caderius Van-Veen** (Yachtmaster Offshore)
Watch Leader	**WO2 (SSM) P. Whitehouse** (Day Skipper)
Crew	**WLCpl T. A. Baird**
Crew	**WLCpl T. Marks**
Crew	**WPte S. Socket**
Crew	**WPte A. Bowers**

The plan was to depart from Akrotiri and sail to Crete, then to the islands of Santorini and Milos before returning to Crete to replenish the supplies of food, water and fuel. It was then proposed to sail a continuous course of 500 miles around the western coast of Crete back to Cyprus thus covering part of the requirements towards the Yachtmasters Ocean certificate.

As with all good plans the actual route taken was changed due to bad weather. We sailed 1,530 nautical miles in 21 days calling at eight ports—one of them twice due to engine failure.

An Adventure, was it? It certainly turned out to be one, with the crew sailing through many different weather conditions ranging from a force 6, when all the sails were down and *Parang* was sailing under bare poles, to no wind at all when the crew had to resort to towing her behind the dingy. This provided much amusement to the local population of Agios Nikolaos, as they witnessed 10 tons of yacht being towed by an inflatable dingy into the harbour with the dingy being rowed.

Santorini was an interesting island, where the only form of transport to the town centre is a donkey. Once mounted on the donkey we found that they needed no controlling up the 1,000ft climb to the town, they knew exactly where they had to go and seemed as though they all wanted to get to the top first. So without any steering from the riders they bolted off fighting each other to lead the way. This was all very exciting and great fun for us.

We climbed up to the top of the Volcanic Island of Thira, having anchored in a cove and rowed ashore. Once at the top we found the earth beneath our feet very hot and steam oozing from the surface. We had read that the volcano was still active so for safety reasons we armed ourselves with a fire extinguisher, luckily we manged to get back on board without using it.

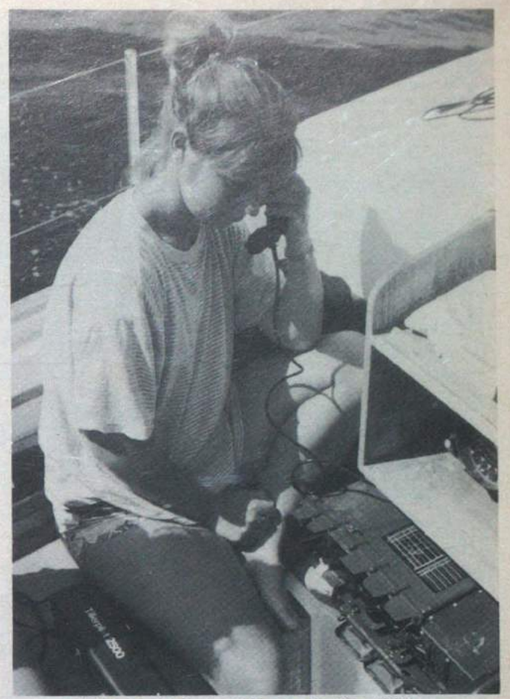
Our communication throughout the exercise was by means of a PRC 320 radio with **Sandy Sockett** the communication officer. She did very well and even managed to invent a new form of voice procedure, much simpler than the stuff taught at Catterick and other training establishments—phrases like, 'Hello is any one there' and 'can you speak up I can't hear you' spring to mind.

With 22 days on board, 1,530 miles sailed and many many memories that will stay with us for a long time I think all the crew would agree that, yet it certainly was an Adventure.

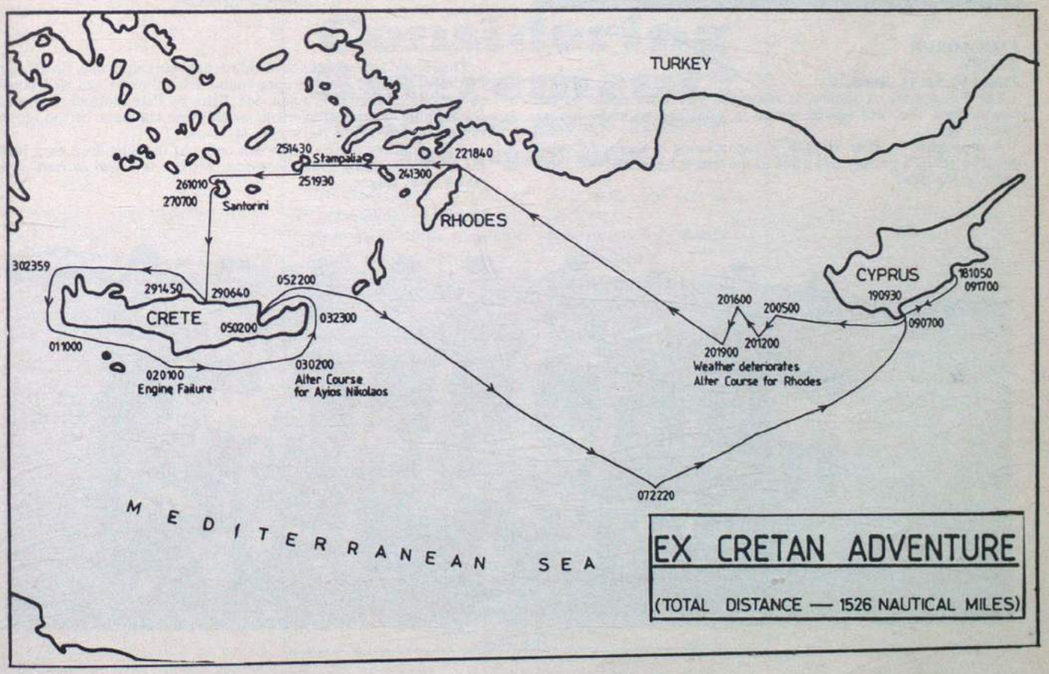
Crew towing Parang

WLCpl Tina Marks, WPtes Allison Bowers and Sandy Sockett, Cpl Theo (CVV), WO2 Pete Whitehouse, Maj John Gryspeerdt and WLCpl Tracy Baird

Donkeys—Santorini



WPte Sandy Sockett Communications Officer



2 SQUADRON
SQUADRON ADMIN INSPECTION

29 April saw the first SA1 of the Squadron by **Lt Col Mann**. The day consisted of men being put through their paces in various military skills including, SA80 Trg, camouflage, unarmed combat and finishing with an assault course.

Lt Col Mann talks to the troops as Maj Helm OC Sqn listens intently—just in case!

Sgt Andy Ashwell uses thought transfer to help Sgt Al Harries over the 12ft wall

2 SQUADRON
RUGBY
Report by Sgt D. Ruddock

The 2 Sqn team, a somewhat revamped side from earlier in the season, took the field against 1 Sqn in what proved to be a very exciting game.

A drop goal by **Pete Stockell** in the opening minutes, followed shortly after by a penalty saw 2 Sqn in the lead at half-time, but never really in the clear.

The second half, thanks to some sterling work up front, finally saw the backs released and the open rugby that followed was well suited to the smaller but fitter 2 Sqn side. Tries by **Pete Stockell** (two) and **Dave Fuller** (one)—an excellent break from the back of the scrum eventually saw 2 Sqn the victors at 21—4.

A fine spirited match which can only put the Squadron on a high for the forthcoming 1988/89 season, when it is hoped to start up a minor units league.

The Team

The Regimental Hockey Team

HOCKEY

2 Sqn hockey team recently completed a successful season. In the Cyprus ESBA League the team was beaten only once, scoring a half century of goals and conceding only seven. Despite this, however, they were beaten to the league title by the United Nations Representative Team, the Unicorns, on a goal difference of two. Revenge was sweet however, as in the ESBA Cup Competition 2 Sqn met Unicorns in the final and played some quite excellent hockey to finish emphatic winners by five goals to one. Sadly we must say farewell to three members of the team who are moving on to pastures new. They are **Capt R. F. Clay, WO2 G. W. Barber** and **Mr J. Lister**. On a closing note it is pleasing to say that the high standard of play in the team was reflected in the number of players (five) chosen to play for their respective services in the annual inter service match.

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11 Sig Regt
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SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S VISIT

The Regiment was privileged to welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief and **Mrs Alexander** to what proved to be a busy and diverse programme on Friday 18 March. It was busy enough to include two Pass Off Parades, and diverse enough to feature the firing of SA80, attending a Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Course Dinner, and a monthly gathering of the Regimental Wives Club.

The day started with the Pass Off Parade for three junior troops; namely Battleaxe, Iron and Ulster Tps. To accompaniment from the Corps Band (a fine performance) the parade went extremely well and the spectators, some 600 parents, friends and relatives, showed their appreciation with warm applause. It was a memorable end to the 113 juniors' six months of military training with the Regiment. It was also a day to remember for **SSgt John Streeting** who was presented with his BEM on parade. We congratulate him on this award for meritorious service in Northern Ireland.

With a small break to meet the parade staff, the SOinC moved onto the gym, which was bedecked in 'Jimmies' and Corps Colours, to present the prizes and address the departing juniors, and their parents. Prizes for achievement were presented as follows.

Military Studies	
Communication Skills	**JSig Pearce** (Ulster Tp)
Military Calculations	**JSig Greenwood** (Battleaxe Tp)
Orientation for Service	**JSig Small** (Ulster Tp)
Map Reading	**JSig Davidson** (Battleaxe Tp)
Best Overall Military Studies	**JSgt Fowler** (Ulster Tp)
Best Shot	**JSig Walsh** (Battleaxe Tp)
	JSig Hodgson (Iron Tp)
	JSig Small (Ulster Tp)
Best Endeavour	**JSgt Williams** (Battleaxe Tp)
	JSgt Pomeroy (Iron Tp)
	JSig Soulsby (Ulster Tp)
Best Junior Soldier	**JSgt Fowler** (Ulster Tp)
Championship Troop	Battleaxe Tp

There followed a gathering in the Junior Ranks Club so that **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Alexander** could meet the Juniors and their parents in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

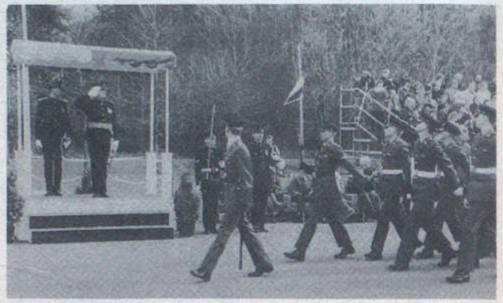
The presentation of another award followed in the Corporals' Mess, when **Cpl Mick North**, adventure trainer extraordinaire, was presented with his LS&GC Medal (though to this day no one knows from whom be borrowed his No 2 Dress). We offer him and his family congratulations on this happy occasion.

One of the many pleasant aspects of visitors to Helles Barracks is the array of trees planted by distinguished members of the Corps, and other visiting senior officers. Not wishing to miss the ideal opportunity, with shiny shovel in hand, the SOinC made his contribution to a valued forest by planting his tree between the Sergeants' Mess and the new Royal Signals Museum Catterick, in 'pole' position, of course.

Following a buffet lunch in the Sergeants' Mess and a change into combat kit, the SOinC reviewed the Pass Off Parade of TA Course 201 and then watched them participating in a patrol competition. After firing the SA80 on the Regiment's 30m Range there followed the TA prize giving and the SOinC's address.

The final duty on the SOinC's programme was to attend the Staff Sergeants' Course dinner in the Sergeants' Mess. A most fitting and enjoyable end to an extremely busy programme.

Mrs Alexander was not without an evening engagement of her own, as she and **Mrs Collyer** attended a Regimental Wives Club meeting in the Amenities Centre. The gathering was treated to a demonstration of beauty care (0 out of 10 to the person who suggested that such embellishment was necessary . . .!).



The SOinC takes the salute from Lt Matt Fensom OC Ulster Troop

The SOinC presents SSgt John Streeting with his BEM

The SOinC talks to the Corps Band Sergeant Major:
L-R: SSgt Barry Stephens A/SSM 3 Sqn, Maj Alan Griffiths OC 3 Sqn, WO1 (RSM) Ben Britton, Lt Col David Collyer CO 11 Sig Regt, Maj Gen P. D. Alexander SOinC and WO1 Ian Green

Cpl Mick North receives his LS&GC medal from the SOinC

FOCUS ON 1 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj A. B. Hill**
Admin Offr	**WO1 E. D. Feasey**
OC 1 Tp	**WO1 D. Pimm**
OC 2 Tp	**Lt N. A. Walker**
OC 3 Tp	**Lt A. D. Burgin**
OC 4 Tp	**Lt S. Wheatley**
OC 5 Tp	**Lt P. A. Hodgkiss**
OC 7 Tp	**Sgt Waddingham**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) T. Mortlock**
SQMS	**SSgt A. Jeannette**

1 Sqn goes from strength to strength. The doubling of the Adult Recruit intake numbers of Royal Signals for 1988 has squeezed an already tight programme. The Squadron runs JNCO courses, as well as TA Recruit and Detachment Commanders Courses. It seems that one course passes off, just in time for another to start. The pace of life is hectic, but the smiles of satisfaction on the faces of recruits, proud parents and permanent staff on the successful completion of each course is ample reward for all. Arrivals and departures of the permanent staff are too numerous to mention, they are all wished 'Bon Voyage' and all success for the future. To the new arrivals welcome to what seems the busiest Squadron in the Corps.

1 TROOP

PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**2Lt Dave Pimm**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Keith Fisher**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Bob Banner**
	Cpl Chris Carling
	Cpl Terry Dullaghan
	Cpl Rab Horne

No sooner had Adult Recruit Course 8802 assembled than it was time to say farewell and good luck to them in their new careers. But that's just how it seemed. The nine weeks of intense, whirlwind activity between 8 February and 8 April saw a dramatic improvement in attitude, ability and appearance of 37 young men destined to take up between them no less than 13 Royal Signals trades.

Sig John Callaghan, *kneeling right*, discovers a 10p piece halfway round the assault course

Sig Book, Auit, Swarbrick, Brogan, Rayson and Ruff test the water during the log race

One of the highlights of the course was the inter-troop competition against rivals 2 Troop. We didn't win but it was a very closely contested affair especially in the assault course and log race (we won that one!). Everyone gave 100% in courage and determination, and no one would have asked more (except, of course, Tp Sgt **Keith Fisher**).

The pass off parade was, naturally, a time of high anxiety in which the Troop excelled, marching off the square to thunderous applause from families and friends. The Reviewing Officer was GOC NEDist, **Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE** whose heartfelt address to soldiers and families was well received by everyone. He also presented Troop awards to **Sig Kevin Book** for 'Best Shot', **Sig Karl Elliott** for 'Best Endeavour' and **Sig David Evans** for 'Best Recruit'. Special congratulations go to them and the Troop permanent staff wish all our ex-recruits every success for the future.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome the experience of **Cpl Bob Banner** from 5 AB Bde to replace **Cpl Terry Dullaghan** who has decided to become a civilian. Good luck **Terry**, we thank you for your hard work and loyalty, hope you settle quickly into your new career.

2 TROOP

PERSONALITIES

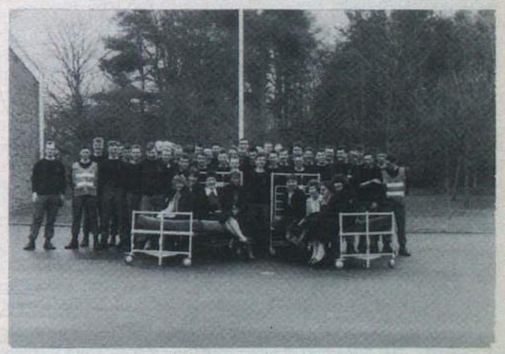
Tp OC	**Lt N. A. Walker**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt A. S. Sherrard**
Tp Cols	**Cpl Conway**
	Cpl Hymas
	Cpl Laffey
	Cpl Plevin
Best Recruit	**Sig Austin**
Best Endeavour	**Sig Murphy**
Best Shot	**Sig Jenkins**

Regular Recruit Course No 8802 assembled on 7 February 1988 45 potential lean, mean, fighting machines. One of the first people they met during that initial confusing week, was **Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE** paying his first visit to the Regiment as GOC NEDist.

The course had several notable high points which are worth a mention. The weekend Adventurous Training was spent at Dent and enjoyed by all, especially **Sig Higgins** and **Wood** who discovered new aspects of themselves. Two weeks later the Troop was to be seen pushing hospital beds around the Garrison laden with a bevy of beauties.

The result was £1,414 which has been donated to the Maternity Unit at The Friargate Hospital and the Great Ormond Street Childrens' Hospital Appeal. All credit to the recruits' hard work, particularly **Sig Benson** who raised £101 through his own efforts.

Unfortunately the Pass Off Parade was marred by cold, wet weather but this didn't dampen the spirits of the recruits. The Pass Off Parade was a double one along with 1 Troop and the Reviewing Officer was **Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE** GOC NEDist.



The 2 Troop charity 'Bed Push'

Regular Recruit Course 8802 on Parade 8 April 1988

5 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt P. A. (Paul) Hodgkiss**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt John Monk**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Ian Swan**
	Cpl Ken Snell
	Cpl Les Stimson
	Cpl Andy Strudwick

A RECRUIT'S ACCOUNT OF TRAINING

As we all arrived no one really knew what to expect but an English phrase book would have been useful due to an accents barrier, but this was soon overcome.

From the first morning and the call of 'corridor' it all started, we knew it was going to be hard when the first words from the Troop Corporal's lips **(Cpl Swan)** was a phrase which was designed to destroy the weaker members but which shall remain only in the hearts and heads of those who have served with him.

The remainder of the permanent staff consisted of **Lt Hodgkiss, Sgt Monk, Cpls Snell, Stimson** and **Strudwick**.

All the lessons in classrooms went allright but on the square it was a completely different kettle of fish. During the first of our drill lessons **Cpl Swan** threw down his drill cane and hat, looked skyward, and let losse a cry of 'Gentlemen you are really starting to annoy me' (or words to that effect), this appeared to have a magical effect as most of us suddenly achieved the unique mind and body co-ordination required.

Week two began with the exercise, I have never, and neither had anyone else been out in weather such as we had. I knew Catterick was famous for its horizontal rain but the wind on our exercise made everything horizontal.

Two of our Troop decided if this was soldiering it was not for them and off they went home, to a nice warm bed (envy, envy). Just to prove the permanent staff do have feelings, the exercise was finished early and boy were we glad, but if you can live and work in that you can live and work in anything.

Towards the end of week two everything got a little easier, that or we were learning how to pull together as a team.

Pass Off practice finally arrived and just to show he had taken in the training **Sig Thomas** put his sweater on back to front and he got best recruit so you can imagine what the rest of us were like.

The end of course function was a games night, at which the permanent staff said they had never before been beaten, but they lost this time to Section One, only afterwards did we find out they hadn't had a games night before, typical, they suckered us again.

But thank you to No 5 Troop of 1 Sqn 11 Sig Regt for our training, you will be hard to forget. But we'll try.

On 20 March the calm and tranquility of 5 Troop was again disturbed as the patter of tiny feet in the shape of 40 brand new recruits came crashing through the main gates. **Cpl Ian Swan** might have thought they looked like spring chickens and a bit scruffy and overweight, but nine weeks is a long time (isn't it boys?) and 5 Troop were to prove more than their worth.

In the first week they were moved round camp at lightning speed (ably assisted by **Cpl Ken Snell**, collecting uniforms, having medicals and being introduced to the life of the Regiment in general.

Week two, however, saw the start of training proper and the hard work and grit required to pass off soon began, encouraged by the warm friendly manner of **Sgt Monk**.

The training throughout is progessive and varied, and ranged from charity work helping the National Trust to caving and canoeing!

5 TROOP BUILD THE M9—WEEKEND

The charity task organised by 5 Troop was to help the National Trust build a new road near Fountains Abbey close to Catterick Garrison in Yorkshire. We had 50 tons of Aggregate, 10 tons of sand, 40 shovels and a weekend. It sounded like hard work!

But, the Troop left Catterick to the sound of **Cpl Snell** shouting 'move it, move it' and at one stage it was reported to have disturbed the slumbers of **Cfn Mackintosh**. The job itself was hard but enjoyable and in the slack periods the lads tried to master the art of human pyramids (much to the confusion of local civvies).

There was also some fun and games with the Road Roller, with **Cpl Les Stimson** almost managing to perform the White Helmets 'Reverse Jimmy' as he careered out of control down towards Pately Bridge!

It was then **Cpl Snell**'s turn and he decided to tarmac the road (and put cats eyes in at the same time!).

However all the lads enjoyed the day, as did our resident engineer, **Lt Paul Hodgkiss** who still manages to stay smart no matter how dirty the job.

5 Troop 'Display Team' form the human pyramid

Cpl Snell impresses Sig Johnfinn

Intake 8803—5 Troop 'Champion Troop'

Fourth Row (L to R): Sig Rosser, Young, Woodcock, Cfn Englzmann, Sig Crosby, Cfns O'Connell, Sewell, Wilkinson, Padley and Beattie
Third Row (L to R): Cfn Brain, Sig Lingard, Cfn Mitchell, Sig Williams, Cfns Leyland, Sims, Sig Drysdale, Johnfinn, Cfn Brown, Sig Crossley and McKillop
Second Row (L to R): Sig Walter, Upsall, Cfn Fraser, Sig Coxford, Fergusson, Cfn Rodwell, Sig Mersom, Cfns Heyes, Young, Sig Starkey, Wells, Davis and Cpl MacKintosh
Front Row (L to R): Cpls Stimson, Snell, Sgt Monk JA, Maj A. B. Hill (R Signals), Lt P. A. Hodgkiss (R Signals), Cpls Swan and Strudwick
Absent on Duty: Cfn Kelly

INTER TROOP COMPETITION

All in all the boys had a good time in their training (despite **Cpl Les Stimsons'** jokes!) and they really started to pull together as a team and produced the following results:-

Cross Country	Winners—5 Troop
Assault Course	Winners—5 Troop
Log Race	Winners—5 Troop
Orienteering	Winners—5 Troop
Drill Competition	Draw!

Never mind, four out of five isn't bad. And with that 5 Troop for the second time in a row took the prize for Champion Troop.

Well done to **Lt P. A. Hodgkiss** and all the permanent staff (including **Cpl Andy Strudwick** who is preparing for a six months stay in New Zealand!) and also to **Sgt 'Chippy' Monk** who has been sighted once or twice away from the golf links and in the vicinity of the Troop lines!

Best Recruit	**Sig Walter**
Best Endeavour	**Cfn Leyland**
Best Shot	**Cfn Brown**

PLEASE KEEP YOUR

UNIT NOTES

SHORT

3 SQUADRON

This is the 'quiet' period in the Squadron with only two Troops in training, Kohima and Ulster and commanded by **Lts Bob Parry-Jones** and **Matt Fensom** respectively. We welcome our 'new' Senior Education Officer, **Maj Martin Moss RAEC** and say thank you and farewell to **Maj Duncan Bell RAEC**, who has moved 'down the road' to begin a new career as a Resettlement Officer. Many ex-juniors will remember **Maj Bell** from both Ouston and Helles in his capacity as SEO and, for a time, Squadron Commander. We also say farewell to **Sgt Daren McCluskey**, (again!), who has moved to NCO Training Wing, and to **Sgt 'Taff' George** to 'somewhere down south closer to Corps Rugby!'. Thank you both for you time and efforts within the Squadron and good luck for the future.

The 'Senior' Troop, Kohima, recently provided the Regimental team at the North East District Skill-at-Arms Meeting and were represented by **JLCpl Barnet, JSig Nick Good, Gary Hughes, Jason Russell, Mike Fearnhead** and **Tony Walsh**. The team was led by **Lt Matt Fensom** and supported by **Cpls Tony Gaston** and **'Smudge' Smith**. Although the results were not brilliant the junior soldiers, at least, gained much valuable experience for the future. **JSig Jason Russell** was the team's 'Top Shot' and **Lt Matt Fensom**'s Roupell score doesn't even rate a mention! In the Falling Plate the 'A' team, led by **Cpl Tony Gaston**, did well to win two rounds of the competition. Ulster Tp are now training for the Junior Soldiers Skill at Arms Meeting to be held at Bisley in July.

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

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

SHQ	
OC	**Maj M. J. Jefferis**
2IC	**Capt J. W. Harris RA Signals**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) B. E. Whitton**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) S. J. O'Dare**
Commcen Troop	
OC	**Capt L. Rix**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) M. P. Wedge**
A Troop	
Tp Comd	**WO2 R. Dyer**
	SSgt G. T. Dewar
B Troop	
Tp Comd	**WO2 D. M. Kent**
C Troop	
Tp Comd	**WO2 T. C. Frize**
D Troop	
Tp Comd	**WO2 D. L. Randall**
	SSgt D. W. Bone

The past few months have been quite hectic with the arrival of new faces and some departures. This has been exacerbated with the swap of SHQ office accommodation with 2 Sqn! Many changes have occurred throughout the Squadron of which a few are highlighted:-

The ex OC **Maj John Hayes** has been appointed as 2IC of the Regiment and **Maj Mike Jefferis** has taken interim command of the Squadron until the arrival of **Maj Jim Doherty** in mid June.

An 'Oz' touch has been included with the appointment of **Capt John Harris** RA Signals as 2IC of the Squadron.

Maj Laurie Storey has returned to Comms and Sy Gp and was succeeded by **Capt Clive Honor**.

WO1 Trevor Taylor has retired and plans to set up a dried fruit food franchise in Blandford. All the best!

WO2 Paul O'Brien has migrated down the hill to an RQ's job within the Regiment and was replaced by **WO2 Angus Whitton**.

WO2 Dave Randall has arrived on promotion, congratulations, and has taken over as Tp Comd.

SSgt Steve Palfreyman posted to AA Coll Harrogate.

Our good wishes accompany those who have departed from the Squadron and we warmly welcome the new arrivals who are commencing their tour.

SPORT

The zenith of the sporting arena has been the Squadron dominance at the Regiment's athletics. They 'out ran', 'out jumped', and 'out hurdled' the others to claim a convincing victory. **Sgt Lenny Mills** performed particularly well in the Pole Vault setting a new Regimental record at a height of 3.39m. He was ably supported in the track events by **WO2 Dave Kent, Sgts Chris Moye** and **Dave Parvin, Cpl Andy Brown** and the team Captain **Sgt Dave Butler**.

Sgt Dave Butler receiving the Regimental Athletics Cup from the CO's wife, Mrs Roberts

Other Regimental sporting activities have taken place and 1 Sqn has displayed a commendable level of participation, fitness and talent. The cricket team lacking the skills of Botham or Gatting, made up with determination and enthusiasm which helped in attaining a creditable second place. Within the Regiment there have been two inter-troop competitions. The volleyball was won by C Troop which played well and used cunning tactics to out-wit the opposition (1 Sqn SHQ Tp). Similarly the squash was an all 1 Sqn final won by 1 Sqn SHQ Tp which defeated Commcen Tp.

SOCIAL

The Squadron dinner was held in the Sergeants' Mess on Saturday 21 May and it was, to put it in Australian terms, a bonzer night. The festivities and food, including the 'crisp' bread rolls, were excellent and it was an apt opportunity to say farewell to **Maj Laurie Storey** and **WO1 Tony Bird**. Sunday turned out to be a slow lazy day for most of those who attended.

MT TROOP

The Troop has been short manned for a while and this has placed extra responsibilities and duties on the remaining few. It has been difficult to participate as a Troop but we endeavour to get individuals involved in the activities. The most notable has been **Cpl Dick Malt**'s inclusion as a member of the Regiment's team entry in a skill-at-arms meeting held at Haltern.

Farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Adam Fleck** posted to Comms and Sy Gp, **Sgt Cliver Sear** posted to 22 Sig Regt, **Cpl Vic Smith** posted to 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Kath Sedgwick** posted to 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt and, **Sig 'Jungle' Green** posted to Northern Ireland. Welcome **WO2 (SSM) Pete Grainger** posted to MTWO and **Sgt Tom Hagan** posted to Troop Sergeant.

REGIMENTAL HOCKEY

This season has been an indifferent one for the Regimental Hockey team. We had a fairly rough time in the league with the four RAF units producing very good teams to keep the Army units well under their thumbs. We did well in the BAOR Cup, qualifying for the quarter finals after losing to Rheindahlen Garrison in the RCZ finals 3—2 after extra time. **WO2 Dave Kent, SSgt Tom Delaney** and **Sig Dave Longmuir** were all selected for the Royal Signals Corps team. **Cpl 'Tommy' Steele**, our excellent and courageous goalkeeper, moved to AFCENT, and we also said farewell to **LCpl 'Jock' Malone** and **'Ade' Storey** all of whom will be sorely missed. We eagerly await next season.

REGIMENTAL BADMINTON

The 1987/88 RCZ Badminton League closed on 22 April 1988 with the Regimental team achieving a respectable fifth place under the management of **Sgt Mick Patchitt**. Though there were no honours for the team, individual team members had a successful season. **Cpl Karen Prentice** represented RCZ, BAOR, and the Army during the season, and **Sgts Al Morton** and **Mark Gould** were called upon to represent the RCZ.

In the RCZ individual championships in April, Regimental players did extremely well. **Cpl Prentice** won the ladies singles and the ladies doubles. She was runner-up in the mixed doubles with **Cpl Trev Acres**, who also partnered **Sgt Gould** to the runner-up slot in the Unit doubles. **Sgt Gould** was runner-up in the mens singles.

Other team stalwarts were **WO2 Tom Morrall** and his wife **Wendy. WO2 Ann Livesley, LCpl John Watts** and **Mrs Caroline Harding**.

REGIMENTAL BASKETBALL

Yet another season has almost passed us by, with a series of hectic weeks where one game has appeared to follow another without any sign of the seven days in between. The Regiment entered a team in the RCZ Basketball League way back in September 1987. Since October we have played a number of league matches which has given our younger members much experience of the game and has also given the team many a high standard match. Throughout the season the team has had its pivot point in the form of **WO2 (SSM) Ian Thorneycroft** and **LCpl Andy Brown** who looks set to be our top points scorer for the season. In the league matches we have done relatively well with a couple of wins and some very close defeats but our best efforts were in the RCZ Stage of the BAOR Championships where we came runners-up to a very skilful and strong 16 Sig Regt. This meant that we were amongst the last eight teams in the championships.

On 18 and 19 of February Pool A was being decided between four major unit teams, ours being one of them. A place in the top two would mean going on to the semi and the final stages of the championship, but alas the opposition was too strong and we ended in third place with 23 Engr Regt coming out on top.

LCpl Andy Brown has represented the Corps team in the UK and in BAOR, and the Army BAOR Squad. We are looking forward to a knock-out competition at the end of the season and a few remaining league matches, where hopefully the players who have turned out in all sorts of weather, namely, **WO1 Stan Grimmitt, WO2 Ian Thorneycroft, SSgts George Dewar** and **Chris Skelton, Sgts 'Dougie' Wright** and **Shane Knight, Cpl 'Smudge' Smith, LCpl Andy Brown** and **Sig 'Reggie' Perrin** and **'JR' Parkhurst** will continue to do so and enjoy their game of basketball.

THE PHOENIX PLAYERS (DRAMA CLUB)

One year and four plays on, the Phoenix Players have established themselves within the Regiment and enjoy a considerable following. The latest production by the players was 'Post Horn Gallop', their entry in the BFG Drama Festival. The play was to be judged on the opening night and the cast put on a very commendable performance, frayed nerves calmed by quantities of wine and ale. The performance justified the time and effort that went into the production which saw the birth of several new 'stars' Sadly we are losing **Cpl Julia Lattaway** and **Maj John Tobias** on posting and we wish them the very best in the future.

THE RCZ SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

The 1988 RCZ Skill-at-Arms Meeting was held at ATA Haltern, Kohima ranges during the first week of May.

The selection for places in the Regiment's team was well attended and the competition fierce. Team Officer **Lt Peter Wreford** and Team Captain **WO2 (RQMS) Paul O'Brien** finally selected our best team. Incidentally the team consisted of four of the six cap badges employed within the Unit.

The team left Mercury Barracks on a warm Sunday afternoon and drove to Dulmen where at great expense we were allocated the ground floor accommodation of 'Tentage Hotel'. (Much to the displeasure of **Pte Dixon** who stated 'Wot no camp bed either'). Having established our base camp **WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton** mustered a parade and, under the direction of OC HQ Sqn **Maj Clive Mason**, went in search of a 'non-compo' serving bistro. A good night was had by all.

With an almost undisturbed night's sleep the team left for the range complex to establish their presence. It was soon apparent that **LCpl Ian Smillie** required some education in tent erection as he was convinced that one gable end of our administration tent should be laced to the WRAC ablutions tent. Nice try **Ian**.

Monday had been set aside for teams to familiarise themselves with the format of the various shoots. This proved to be invaluable as most had no idea of the composition of each shoot. An orders group was called Monday evening by **Sgt Mark Humphries** to discuss tactics.

Tuesday marked the beginning of the competition. The sun was up and about before most of us and the weather was glorious. With final adjustments to weapons and clothing and with range detail cards in hand, the team made its way to the appropriate ranges. Adrenalin flowed as they prepared to take on RCZ and come second to no one. Not 10 rounds had gone down the range before the range control tent announced that due to a small fire on range four the shoot would be adjourned. Within a few minutes the small fire had turned into a forest blaze and had 200 quaddies, German civil fire brigades and local residents deployed doing their utmost not to become part of the barbecue menu! When the fire was officially extinguished there was only an hour of daylight left so all retired to again discuss tactics. (At the height of the blaze it covered an area 2-3sq km).

The remaining three days of the competition were more intensified than intended due to the loss of the entire days shooting, nevertheless, some excellent results were achieved. The teams results were:-

Pte Sue Main shot a very creditable 179 on the SMG to be positioned fifth overall.

Cpl Dave Carvell excelled on the SLR and went through to the last 12.

Sgt 'Shuggie' Brunton was placed second on the pistol.

Maj Clive Mason (with an injured knee) did exceptionally well in the LMG advance to contact with **Cpl Dick Malt** and with the addition of our second pair on the LMG were placed second overall.

WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton, Sgts Mark Humphries, and **'Shuggie' Brunton** and **Cpl Dave Carvell** shot a very good falling plate competition but were unfortunately eliminated in the last four teams. The WRAC team was placed second in the SMG shoot.

Friday saw the culmination of the competition with an 8 mile, 100 yds advance to contact SLR shoot otherwise known as a CFT. **Cpl Chris Begg** won't remember too much as he became a casualty from exhaustion at the six mile point and was subsequently hospitalised for four days. Special mention must be made at this point to **Sgt 'Dougie' Wright** who carried **Chris**'s kit the remainder of the course to gain the team a creditable time of 1 hr 42 mins.

Well, 13 Sig Regt are not visiting the Casta del Bisley this year but watch out the rest of RCZ next year!

The 1988 SAAM Team

Back Row (L to R): Cpl Chris Begg, LCpl Iain Maynard, Cpl Dick Malt, LCpl Ian Smillie, WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton, Cpl Dave Carvell, WO2 (RQMS) Paul O'Brien, Cpl Frank Millington and LCpl Steven Gilbertson.

Front Tow (L to R): Sgt Shuggie Brunton, LCpl Anita Thomson, Maj Clive Mason, Lt Catriona Hay, Pte Sue Main and Sgt Mark Humphries

(Absent): Lt Peter Wreford, WO2 Ann Livesley, Sgt Dougie Wright and Pte Shaun Dixon

Discussing Tactics

(L to R): Maj Clive Mason and Cpl Dick Malt

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Any Amount Made Up as Required

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T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
FIELD STATION LANGELEBEN

During March we were pleased to host members of the Lanzealand EW Coy of the Danish Army and only a few weeks later some of the Jutdiv EW Coy completed the Danish invasion.

On 18 March we dined out **Maj Nick Nicoll**; he has been a good friend and advisor. The evening was a roaring success with **Maj Nick Nicoll** and his carpet bowls partner **WO1 Neil Mapp** making a clean sweep of all opposition into the early hours. Also present at this event were our resident JNCOs. **Cpl Geoff Glover**, our commcen manager, kept an eye on **LCpl Steve Codd ACC**, who is 'retiring' from the service to do something completely different and seek a career in catering. We wish **Maj Nicoll** all good health, fortune and happiness for the future as he completes his service in the UK.

We just had time to recover before the arrival of 21 members of 1st Bn Grenadier Guards, who came looking for hills to run up and found some! At the same time 103 MI Bn of the 3 US Corps were with us for a bit of training. Much was done to further the cause of Anglo-American relationships but they all kept a low profile on 25 March when we were visited by **Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge KCB**, Comd 1 (BR) Corps, who left us drained of knowledge but very optimistic for the future.

April saw more of our Danish colleagues from the North and frantic activity preparing for our May Day Volkslauf and Wandertag. This included **SSgts Pete Rixon** and **Ted Roberts** running, or driving, over the 6, 12 and 20km routes. Some 222 people took part in the event on 1 May.

Other recent visitors have included **Maj Gen Soyster, Maj Gen Richard Swinburne**, who dropped in with his ADC for breakfast during the Rhino Trophy on 3 May, **Air Cdre Keith Monkhouse** and **Capt Harris**, Royal Australian Signals.

We hope to keep up this low profile role during the next few months but suspect that circumstances will conspire against us.

QUARTERMASTER (GENERAL) DEPARTMENT

With the departure of **Maj Nicoll** to 11 Sig Regt and everyone having to account for all their equipment and sorting out their book work, other things were afoot, such as arranging dinner nights. Departure day was 22 April when **Maj Nicoll** handed over to **Capt E. J. Banham** who has joined us from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

All the QM staff would like to bid a fond farewell to **Maj Nick Nicoll** and his wife **Margot** and to thank them both for all their assistance in the past and welcome the new QM—**Capt Ted Banham** to the department and wish him all the success in his new appointment.

INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING COMPETITION

HQ Sqn competed gallantly and achieved a well earned third place in the Inter Squadron swimming competition held on 14 April.

As a result of the unavoidable and regrettable withdrawal of one of the team's more experienced swimmers at the eleventh hour, hasty reorganisation was required by team organiser and coordinator **SSgt Gary Euington** and team captain **Cpl Mark Appleby**.

With this unexpected change of selection special thanks is extended to all swimmers for their help and willingness in rallying around and taking part in events and in some cases styles they had never attempted before.

The most notable performance was that of **Cpl Mark Appleby** who put on an outstanding display in winning the Individual 100m Freestyle event. Memorable also will be the style and grace of 'veteran' swimmer **WO1 Bill Souter** in the 50m Medley Relay and the 50m Breaststroke Relay and the sheer 'torpedo' power of **SSgt (FofS) Mick Cooper** in the 50m Medley Relay and the 50m Freestyle Relay.

QUARTERMASTER (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT

We have seen an almost complete turn around in staff in recent months, so we say farewell to: **Cpl Steve Howard** and his wife **Ann, Cpl Stu Taylor, LCpls Steve Upfold, 'Jock' Castle** and **Dave Fitton** and hello to **Cpl Rich Clatworthy** and family, **LCpls Graham Deller, Steve Prior** and family and **Sig Alsop** and family.

WO2 (RQMS) Tony Lunney has not long returned from a fishing trip to Denmark so we are sure that the boss, **Capt (QM) Gordon Platts**, will not be short of the 'one that got away' stories.

We are preparing for a new RQMS as the present one is due to start a spell as SSM HQ Sqn (could this have anything to do with the OC being very keen on fishing?).

Sgt Brian Donegan enjoys making a mess of the German countryside every time he is able to get away to practise his golf (the FAMTO Sergeant said that he needs it).

Cpl Rich Clatworthy has a new addition to his family, a son called **Morgan**, rumour has it that a Tug-of-War team is on the cards (three down, five to go).

LCpl Murray Walker is shortly embarking on his RSDCC and we all wish him well on that.

LCpl 'Jumbo Deller is rushed off his feet with Rugby, Tug-of-War and Boxing and when he can find the time he works in the expense store.

LCpl Steve Prior has only been with us for a matter of days but I am sure it is only a matter of time before he makes his presence felt.

Sig Parry, our resident maths professor has recently been put in charge of the R&I bay and he seems to enjoy his new job.

Sig Dave Alsop will be taking part in Regimental Tug-of-War as soon as he gets over the Inter Squadron Boxing Competition in June (a round one knockout is 7—1 against).

Finally we must say a big thank you to our two civilian staff **Mr Alex McMinn** and **Mr Patrick 'Paddy' O'Flanagan. Paddy** will be retiring shortly after more than 50 years of service to the Army, so we all wish him well in his retirement.

RHQ TROOP

Cpl Paul Storrs sends us this month's report on the RHQ Tp activities.

SPORT

14 SIG REGT V 1 ARMD DIV HQ AND SIG REGT—FOOTBALL

RHQ Tp tried, yet again, to beat the mighty 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt RHQ at football. The match was played in good spirit and provided good entertainment but the high standards of our own referee, **LCpl Keith Townsin**, meant our strength was too much for the opposition. We marked up our first victory over RHQ 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt with the final score being 4—3. It was a pleasing victory for us, especially as we played a scratch team.

Individual sporting events saw **Cpl Paul Storrs** representing the Regiment in the Corps BAOR Rugby Sevens held at Herford where he helped win the Sevens Plate Trophy. **Cpl 'Gibbo' Gibson** is still training for the Regimental Tug-of-War team and **Sig Jason Ward** is now setting his sights on the Squadron Boxing team.

The Squadron Athletics saw **Cpl 'Griff' Griffiths** entertaining the spectators in the 110m hurdles where he came third and he also competed in the long jump where he came fourth. **Cpl Paul Storrs** tried to run the 800m but unfortunately didn't do too well, he came last! The 4 × 100m relay saw the Adjt, **Capt Alan Madsen** and **Cpl Paul Storrs** running a spectacular race and just being pushed into second place.

SOCIAL

Cpl Paul Storrs organised an enjoyable evening for the Troop at the bowling alley at Soltau—ladies v the men. Individual prizes went to one of our typists, **Miss Sue Pidgeon** for the High Game and High Series Ladies. **Cpl Ian Foster**, husband of the other typist, won the High Series Men and **Cpl Paul Storrs** won the High Game Men. The overall winners were the men who have challenged the ladies to a game of pool.

DEPARTURES

Lt Vickie Bright WRAC to the Recruiting Staff, Catterick. We wish her well for the future.

ARRIVALS

We welcome **Lt Tracey Bowers WRAC** from WRAC Centre, Guildford and hope she enjoys her tour with us.

1 SQUADRON
X-RAY TROOP

The Troop has had one of those busy years so far, with the majority of the pads getting the occasional opportunity to introduce themselves to their wives and families before shooting off again. Two exercises to date provided the highest scores in the 'ten-pack' log maintained by **SSgt Ellis Page**: Rising Staff II and Flying Falcon.

Sunday 7 February saw the deployment on Ex Flying Falcon. Most of 1 and 2 Sqns were involved and, as always, complete RCP and Echelon complexes were out as well. A certain amount of confusion was evident during the move to the 443 area, with our Troop 2IC, the Australian **Peter Bull**, the Exchange Warrant Officer from 72 EW Sqn, demonstrating (again) that Australian maps don't have towns, roads, railways and so on, they confuse him . . .

The rest of the exercise was a succession of fast moves for the Troop, as usual, it worked out that one shift did not get very much sleep and **Cpl Phil Ashworth** made it his business to inform all and sundry of the fact. The delights of digging into permafrost were also encountered—**Sgt Duncan Hall** is requested to bring the pneumatic drill that **LCpl Batty** is convinced he has in his stores next time . . .

While all this was going on, the Squadron probe was tucked up on the Ith and Deister features successively, getting taken prisoner by Trunk Node 023 and attacked by ragamuffins from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The Squadron Commander **Maj John Hudson** and his 2IC, **Capt John Lugg**, took reprisals for this ugly deed, while **Sgt Henrik Kiertzner**'s crew lolled in luxury with 7 Sig Regt. As usual **Cpl Ian Heward** dug a tunnel complex reminiscent of the Somme and, again as usual, seemed to know everybody at the Node from his last unit.

The Troop then deployed onto Ex Morning Glory, under command of 2 Sqn, but that is another story.

Ex Rising Star II (this one isn't a punishment, either) took place immediately after the Easter grant. The lads were grateful for the opportunity to get away from it all and enjoy a few days in the woods and they duly skipped into camp at 0430 on 6 April to deploy.

Once in the exercise area and set up, the first activity was a tear-down, followed by a stimulating night navex. **Lt Simon Purser**, ably driven by **Sig Eddie Massey**, led the way round a course better suited to an ouzlem bird. Despite his implying that people were taking advantage of his magnificent navigational skills by following him and his protestations that walking pace was entirely too fast, the OC eventually beat the tortoise home in a photo finish. **Sgt Garry Melding** and **Cpl Phil Ashworth** decided enough was enough and slid their Rover gracefully into a ditch half-way through, which prompted a number of imitation-is-the-sincerest-form-of-flattery incidents, notably those achieved by **Sig Bill Bailey** and **Cpl Frank Dalton. Sgt Harry Butland**, our latest deserter from Whisky Tp, taught his famous ¼ ton lumberjack trick to an appreciative audience and **LCpl Colwell** did do it with his eyes shut, to the alarm of **LCpl Batty**! With this first phase under the Troop's belt, anything else would be an anticlimax—and was, with the possible exception of **SSgt Ellis Page**'s famous disappearing act—'I'm just off to check my lads . . .'.

Lastly, we bid farewell to **Cpl Phil Baldwin** and **Hillary** and **Cpl 'Scouse' Bond** and **Judith** and welcome **Cpls Derek Tidswell** and **Hukin** and our two new Muppets—**LCpls Bennett** and **Mark Wilkinson**, although why anyone from Darlington didn't join the Royal Corps is a mystery to us . . .

1 SQUADRON
J TROOP

The Troop would like to welcome the following new arrivals **LCpl Phil Duff** and his family, **LCpl Jones** and his family. We hope they enjoy their tour with the Troop. We say farewell to the following—**Sgt Pickering** who is posted to the fantastic 2 Sqn and **Cpl Bob Morrice** who is off to the sunny School of Signals.

LCpl 'Geerdie' Green who is on his upgrading course at the chocolate factory in sunny Catterick.

Also to our dear friend, leader of all SSM's—**WO2 (SSM) Anthony Tomlinson** and his family and **Charlie** the dog!

Lastly this is a great loss to our Troop, everyone would like to wish a fond farewell to **2Lt John Botterill** our Troop OC. We wish him well reading for a degree at Shrivenham.

W TROOP

W Troop has been kept busy with Troop and Squadron exercise, demos for EW Study Days, a Radio Supervisor's Course, a three week stint on shift at Langeleben and a weeks Regimental training. Somewhere amongst all this, we have found the time to maintain our vehicles and operational equipment (though the LAD may disagree when faced with the efforts of **Sig Andy Egan**, whose personal weapon now shoots round the corners which his Landrover and trailer are unable to negotiate!).

On the sporting side, the Troop provided a sizeable contingent to the Squadron athletic and swimming teams both of which proved victorious in their respective competitions.

Currently several members of the Troop are away on exercise 'Ruwenzori Diamond' soon to be trekking up several volcanoes in Zaire.

Finally we would like to say 'welcome' to **WO2 Harrie Douglas** our new Troop 2IC, **Cpl Steve Gallagher, LCpls Jeremy Clark** and **Sammy Irving** (fresh from Loughborough). Sadly leaving us are **WO2 Bob Crockart** for 640 Tp in Blandford and **Cpl Phil Bracey**, we wish them well.

3 SQUADRON

Capt Mark Perry and the 'old and bold' Yeoman **Dave Bowman** have moved on to pastures new. **Capt Adrian Campbell-Black** on promotion has moved to 2IC, **Lt Richard Lapslie** has taken over P Troop and **Lt Andy White** has moved across to join us from 2 Sqn.

SOCIAL

P Troop organised a 'Tramps Party' in March just as the new Troop Commander had arrived. He was still wearing his 'Tramps' outfit at the next Squadron function a month later! Other social functions have included the dining out of the Yeoman and a BBQ at **Maj Lance Byrne**'s house.

SPORT

The Squadron trained hard for the swimming competition—every morning at 0600 hrs in the local pool—although we still managed to hold last position! The 4 × 100m relay team fared better in the Athletics winning the event. On a more serious note, Tuesday 19 May saw **Mrs Rosemary Halford**, wife of **SSgt Halford** 'break off' the 3 Sqn 24 hours snooker marathon in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe MBE** took the next shot and then it was up to the 'Match Room Boys' to continue for 24 hours. The team was full of talent which was reflected in the scores. The prize for the highest break of 18 was awarded to **LCpl McKinnon**. The highest score of 90 was awarded to **LCpl Sturmey**, the 'Knockout' Competition was won by **LCpl Graham** and the most fails, 15, awarded to **Cpl Johnson**. A keen competitor was the OC and his wife **Sarah** who played into the early hours. It is hoped that we will raise DM 1,760 for Multiple Sclerosis and we wish to thank everyone for their support.

The Team and their 'Mascot' Sig Penrose, LCpl Sturmey, Maj Bryne, LCpl Cox and SSgt Leyland

FUTURE

Looking ahead the Squadron is off on Challenge Pursuit Camp in the Harz. **Capt Adrian Campbell-Black** has organised sailing for the Squadron and an adventure training expedition to the Canadian Rockies. So an interesting and exciting Summer for 3 Sqn to look forward to.

TUG-OF-WAR
Report by Cpl M. Boylan

On 25 May we decided to enter a team in the 1 Div stage of the BAOR championships which were to be held at Hohne and although our team had been depleted through pullers being used in other more prestigious sports such as boxing, rugby and athletics we managed to pull our way into third position beating 1 RHA on the way. Our 560kg team on the day was: **Cpls Mark Boylan, 'Hoppy' Hopwell, Mark Appleby, 'Postman' Gibson, 'Clats' Clatworthy, LCpls 'Mouse' Murray, Keith Townsin** and **Sig Gary Parkes**.

The bad news was to come a week later in the Morrison Cup. We lost three of our 640kg pullers through leave, injury and adventure training. We scraped to enter a team and eventually fielded the following eight: **Mr Chadwick, Sgt Warwick, Cpls Oliver, Clatworthy, Boylan, Appleby, Gibson** and **LCpl Murray**.

We were drawn in to pool B alongside 4 ADSR, 16 Sig Regt, 22 and 28 Sig Regts. Our first pull being against a very well drilled 4 ADSR team which pulled us into defeat—the other results were:-

22 Sig Regt—we lost 2—0
16 Sig Regt—we won 2—0
28 Sig Regt—we won 2—0

Although we were all disappointed, we learned again that we need more flexibility and a larger squad to choose from.

We bid farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Bob McKenzie** who leaves us on posting. We would like to thank him for getting TOW off the ground in the Regiment and the help, drive and expertise he has given us over the last two years.

TM TROOP
HOHNE SPONSORED JAILBREAK
Report by Cpl Sweatman

In no way influenced by recent Corps policy changes, regarding tour lengths, the TM Tp 'Escape Team' had no difficulty finding three ready volunteers in **Cpls 'Sweats' Sweatmen, LCpls Gas Drury** and **Bob Pace**.

These three victims of society found themselves on Friday 22 April, with 24 hours and an ironclad plan, based on two unrecorded conversations with a visiting American, to get as far as possible from Hohne guardroom.

The team departed in high spirits, the difficulties of getting lifts as a three strong group of escapees, being only slightly offset by the novelty of wearing prison garb.

Smooth talk and 'cute' accents overcame any further difficulties at Rhein-Main Air Force Base and 'catalogued and categorised', the desperadoes retired to further Anglo-American relations over a Budweiser.

0430 hrs Saturday was 'Showtime' at the departure terminal, where seats were allocated. A careful study of boarding cards and a world map showed the destination to be Southern Turkey, and but a short time later, the team stepped out into the sunshine of 'Incernik AFB, Adana (about the closest point in Turkey to Cyprus). After a swift promotion to 'Technical Captain' papers were stamped by Turkish Customs and the escapees set of in search of Big Mac's and chocolate fudge brownies.

Disappointment at the cancellation of Sunday's return flight was overcome and the day was creatively spent in a tour of the area and a sampling of the delights of the NCOs' club.

Monday brought a return to Celle to begin the task of collecting the pledged sponsorship money, raised for the **Gnr Kenny** appeal.

LCpls Gaz Drury and Bob Pace outside 'Central billeting Incerruk AFB Turkey'

RUGBY TEAM—CORPS SEVENS

After only a couple of training sessions under the watchful eye of the injured **Sgt Iain McNelly**, the Regiment sent two teams down to the Corps seven-a-side Tournament held at Herford on 13 April. Due to exercises and injury we were deprived of the talents of **Capt Stu Sharman** and Team Captain **Sgt 'Mac' McCreedy** but set off determined to enjoy the day anyway.

The A Team started us off with a nervous game against 3 ADSR, but won with a score of 10—6 with a couple of fine tries from **Cpls Ally Duncan** and **Andy Forbes**. If the A Team had a nervous start then the B Team's can only be described as awful! Doing a fine impersonation of a headless chicken formation dancing team we allowed the 4 ADSR to run rings around us and to notch up 16 points in response to our 6. The highlight of the game was **Sgt Kirwin Daniel**'s try as he crossed the line with most of the 4 ADSR team hanging off him like decorations!

So the A Team headed off towards the cup and the B Team set off in pursuit of the plate with Team Captains **Sgt Norman Yarwood** and **Cpl Bob Fanning**, respectively, at the helms.

The next opponent for the A Team was 212 Sig Sqn which we beat by 16—0, the added aggression of **Cpl Richie Angove** and extra pace of **Cpl Paul Dunn** helping to overcome our earlier nerves. 210 Sig Sqn took us on in the next round, putting up a good fight but eventu. losing by 24—0. This put us into the semi-finals against the ve. strong A Team from 22 Sig Regt, the pace of their wing play and the experience of their 'older' players were the telling factors which enabled 22 Regt to win by 24—4. The A Team was far from being disgraced by their exit and learned many valuable lessons that will stand us in good stead for the future. Many fine tries were scored by the A Team in their cup run and thanks must go to **Cpl Simon Gibbs** and **LCpl Jim Thompson** for their contribution to the tally; also to **Cpls Gary Foster** and **Chris Naylor** for their part in the team effort.

The B Team's progression in the plate started with a game against 21 Sig Regt A Team, with a steadier performance that was highlighted with a couple of excellent tries from **2Lt Rich Lapslie** and **LCpl Bob Wright**. After having won that one 22—6 we went on to play 202 Sig Sqn. After an initial fright we settled down to play more controlled rugby and with **Cpl Warren Ginn** in a point-scoring mood, went on to win by 16—4. The final of the plate was against 3 ADSR, a hard fought game between two fairly tired teams. **Cpl Warren Ginn** was again in splendid form, scoring all of our points in a 10—0 victory. Mention must be made of **Sgt Frank Bowker** and **SSgt (FofS) Mick Cooper** who were ever present but failed to get on the score sheet. **Sgt Colin Cape** and **Cpl Paul Storrs** proved themselves to be able deputies when limbs got a little tired.

So, at the end of the day, we put in a creditable performance as a Regiment and were left to reflect on what might have been and what on earth went through **Sgt Norman Yarwood's** mind to make him think he could fly kick a rugby ball! Our thanks must go to 7 Sig Regt for providing us with an excellent day out in a well organised and well run tournament.

As a postscript—well done to the lads who travelled down with us to support and ended up playing for the Barbarians scratch side, getting through to the second round of the cup. They were **Sgt Nick Cable, LCpls John Lester** and **Sturmley**.

Report by SSgt F (FofS) Mick Cooper

After the team's moderate success in the Corps seven-a-side tournament we then went on to achieve a similar level of Trophy collecting in the 1 Division Sevens. This time it was the Regiment's First Team that won the plate competition after ending up in the same qualifying group as 21 Engr Regt. With the exception of their narrow defeat by the Engineers the First Team swept aside all comers to romp to a comfortable victory in the plate final. The team was bolstered up by the inclusion of two of the regular 'stars' of the first team, **Capt Stu Sharman** and Team Captain **Sgt 'Mac' McReedy** who were missing from the Corps Sevens. Had we had **Sgt Iain McNelly** fit, maybe we could have taken the main competition. The highlights of the tournament were **Sgt Norman Yarwood**'s pass back to **Cpl Andy Forbes** after he had crossed the try line and **Cpl Chris Naylor**'s 'hatchet' job breaking his jaw. A vote of thanks from TM Tp for that by the way, having his jaw wired up for three weeks was everybody's idea of Christmas coming early!

Soon after the Division Sevens we were back in action against 1 RTR in the semi-final of the Division Fifteens Cup. After listening to their band play very well before the game it was a bit of a shame to see that their Rugby team couldn't and after a bit of a shaky start we won comfortably. The backs had a particularly good game and one of them even managed to pick up the coveted 'Plonker of the Match' award after the game. I won't mention his name. Our opposition for the final turned out to be the Queen's Dragoon Guards, the team that put us out of the Army cup earlier in the year. As the Brigadier pointed out as he presented us with the winners' trophy they put up a spirited sportsman-like display and were unlucky to be beaten by the 12 breakaway tries we were fortunate to pick up. All of the backs scored (except **Cpl Ally Duncan**) and it was good to see **Sgt Iain McNelly** back to form with a lovely drop goal and a try walked in on his hands and knees.

The final score was 55—8 and considering the temperature a good open game was played by the team. The day after the final a select side was sent to Hamburg for the sevens tournament and by all accounts a good day was had by all who attended. Continuing the Regimental tradition of reaching plate finals the team made their way to a confrontation with 'Berlin Stadium'. By then the pressure started to tell and we were unlucky to be narrowly beaten by 44—6. The highlight of the day was when **WO1 Robbie Seaword** was brought on in the second half for his swansong appearance. He manfully removed his spectacles and then doing a fine impersonation of 'Blind Pugh' lined up with Berlin for the next kick off. So all-in-all, not a bad season for the Regimental Rugby team and a good basis for improvement next season. You never know we might even encourage some of the other Regimental teams to try to win something.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

SPECIAL SPORTS REPORT

16 Sig Regt is a unique formation. Fully Ptarmiganised, with more switches than any other signal unit when completely equipped, it operates in more than seventeen Static and Field communication sites in three different countries.

Any consideration of our sporting achievements must take into account the fact that we have over 30% WRAC personnel and have two Squadrons divorced from our Regimental location; one in Rheindahlen and one in Bielefeld.

No lack of variety here then, for trades persons of any sort, but an obvious difficulty when competing in major sports with other Regiments of similar size, such as 7 Sig Regt, composed only of males and with no shift manning commitments.

Our ploy has been to concentrate on major sports with smaller teams. With the noticeable exception of rugby all our successes lie in this area. As you can see from the list below we have quite an impressive list of triumphs!

Army Basketball Champions, BAOR Champions, RCZ Champions, Army Canoe Champions (White Water), BAOR Basketball Champions (Womens Services), Army Runners Up (WS), Corps Boardsailing Champions, R Signals BAOR, RCZ Runners Up, RCZ Rugby Champions, Div 2 Champions, RCZ Water Polo Champions, BAOR Swimming Champions (WS) and Army Womens Swimming Champions Runners Up.

In addition, we include members of the Combined Services and Army Basketball and Canoeing in our midst and two Olympic hopefuls in the new sport of Luge, I hope you will agree that, here in 16 Sig Regt, we both work and play hard!

The March and Shoot team set off towards yet more success

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING

The Regimental Shooting Team had a highly successful week at the RCZ Skill-at-Arms meeting between 2-6 May 1988. Managed by **Capt Mike Nevill** and coached by **Cpls Pete Ledger** and **'Taff' Rideout** the team almost swept the board by scooping most of the major prizes. **LCpl Ian Weeks** took a few days off from duties in the Regimental Restaurant and ended up walking away with seven awards and trophies. **Cpl 'Taff' Rideout** also became the RCZ Champion at Arms and won honours on the pistol and SLR. The total team and individual tally was:

Team Prizes: RCZ Major Unit Winners, RCZ SLR Team Winners, RCZ SMG Team Winners and RCZ March and Shoot Winners.

LCpl Weeks ACC: RCZ Class B Champion at Arms, RCZ Class A Champion at Arms Runner Up, Individual SLR Winner, Individual SLR Class B Winner, Individual SMG Winner, Individual SMG Class B Winner and RCZ Best Young Soldier.

Cpl Rideout: RCZ Champion at Arms, Pistol Winner and SLR Runner Up.

As a result of their tremendous efforts the team now goes forward to represent the RCZ at Bisley and hopefully even more success.

The March and Shoot team line up to receive their medals

The SAAM Team
L-R Back: Cpl Alden, LCpls Taylor, Ashworth, Cpls Arnold, Ledger and Cfn Keeling
L-R Front: Sig Jones, Cpl Dickson, LCpl Weeks, 2Lt Saddington, Cpl Rideout, Sgt Duffy and Cpl Southwick

Maj Jones, LCpl Roper, Sig Tedby, Cpl Cooper, LCpls Stanley-Jones, Robinson, Cfn Smith, Cpl Bavister, Sgt Griffith, Brig Palmer, Sig Matthews, LCpl Hudson, Capt McKenna, Sgts Maher, Duffy (Capt), Lt Clewlow, Cpl Gartside, Sig Clarke, Cpl Arnold, Sgts Davies, Hodson and WO1 (RSM) Marsden

RUGBY

To start the competition we played the area favourites 21 Sig Regt. This proved to be a very hard fought and physical game, the Regiment winning by 19 pts. Thanks to a lucky bye we then went directly into the final.

It is 15 years since 16 Sig Regt won the RCZ Cup, so we were eager to put up a good display. The final took place on 28 April against 28 Sig Regt at Bracht. Many thanks are due to 3 BAD for a very well organised day.

The match started with eveyone playing at a hundred miles an hour, prohibiting good play. After a 'tactical' injury the team was given a stern talking to by the team Captain **Sgt Gaz Duffy**. This changed the whole attitude towards the game. Right from the restart 16 Sig Regt scored a try which began from well within their own 22. The move involved **Sgt Duffy, Cpls John Bavister, Jack Gartside** and finally, after being driven over the try line, **Cpl Andy Cooper**. This opened a free scoring romp for the Regiment which won by 26—6. Other scorers were **WO1 Russell Marsden, Sgt Fred Tedby**, and to make sure the backs got on the score sheet **Sgt Dougie Maher**. On the kicking scene **LCpl Clark Stanley-Jones** kicked two penalties and converted two tries.

Many thanks to 28 Sig Regt for providing a good clean game and better luck next year.

So to end a fine season, a presentation dinner was held on 30 April. The meal was attended by all players still in station and an excellent evening was had by all. Before the festivities of Disco Stomping, presentations were made by the Club Officer **WO1 Marsden** to the undernamed for their fine efforts: **Sgt Tom Davies**—as the most improved forward, **Cpl Karl Arnold**—as the most improved back, **Cpl Paul Gartside**—as the season's highest try scorer and **Sgt Pete Griffiths**—who was voted the player's player of the season.

Well done to all named, something to aim for next season. Thanks must also got to **Cpl Jack** and **Mrs Kathy Thorpe** (bar personnel extraordinare), **Cpl Paul Crinnion** (hard working committee man), **SSgt John Jackson RAPC** (club treasurer), **Sgt Neil Hatton** and of course me, **Sgt Gas Duffy** (juggler, club captain, secretary, fixtures rep and transport rep etc).

Best wishes of good luck are sent to all past, present and future members for a good season.

STOP PRESS

We have just been informed that we have won the Tetley/Skol League Div 2 and therefore being promoted to Div 1.

Cpl Bavister proudly displaying the Major Units Rugby Cup for the (BR) RCZ with Sgt Duffy still organising things in the background

Sgt Maher claiming the try—'after all, could you not see the chalk dust?' Note the Referee in close pursuit

MIXED BLESSINGS 88

Battlecamp began with a CFT, moved through military training stands and ended with a March into and defence of an area. The final assault from the enemy had to be heard to be believed but in spite of World War 3's commencement the Regiment withdrew, in contact, in very good order.

The photos depict a few of the situations the section was exposed to in training. We even have a video of it all thanks to our intrepid **RQMS(A) Robertson**. They all show that the WRAC soldiers deserve a special tribute for their courage and good cheer in the face of the unknown!

Out of the pit

Going!

Gone!

Sig Wood, WPte Marr, Sig Budding, LCpl Lawes (Section Comd), Sig Barton, WCpl Walters and WPte Percival

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS

GLOUCESTER

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SERCO

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

THE REGIMENT HONOURS A SPECIAL LADY

There can be few members of our Corps who do not know of the excellent service **Frau Busse** has given 21 Sig Regt over the years.

Frau Busse is pictured proudly receiving a wall clock in honour of her 25 years' service with the Regiment, the headquarters of which were originally at RAF Laarbruch.

Frau, as she is affectionately known, started working for the Regiment on 18 February 1963 and spent 14 years as the Movements Clerk. Since 1977 she has been L Troop's clerk and as well as acting as interpreter, she also runs the troop tea bar, guides young soldiers on their way and is of immense help to all the wives, especially those with husbands away on detachment.

The presentation was made by the CO, **Lt Col Ian Turner**, during his farewell visit to 3 Sqn on 12 February.

Frau Busse also received a gold watch and a number of other gifts from both past and present members of L Troop, as a token of appreciation.

Frau Busse receives a gift from Lt Col Ian Turner

BAOR ROYAL SIGNALS INTER-UNIT TEAM ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS THE MORRISON CUP

The most prestigious Royal Signals sporting event of the year was won by 21 Sig Regt for the second year in succession.

This year's Morrison Cup, ably hosted by 22 Sig Regt, took place in the BAOR Athletic Stadium at Sennelager, 31 May/1 June.

Despite adverse weather conditions, the enthusiasm of the competitors and the professionalism of the officials combined to make the two day competition worthy of true Morrison Cup standards despite a marked lack of spectators.

Though this year's athletic standards had improved considerably overall, at the end of the first day the Regiment was in the lead, maintaining and then improving that lead up to and including the final event of the competition.

In the true spirit of the Morrison Cup it would be wrong to single out any one individual from a very fine team. The team was chosen from the following:-

WO2 Everingham, SSgt Hall, Sgt Hardy, Sgt Dos Martyres, Sgt Poulson (Team Captain), **Sgt Griffiths, Cpls Jarvis, Burrell, George, Brown, Hanlon, Watts, Tredwell, Wilson, Blunsum, Farrell** and **Gorman, LCpls Lindo, Wood, Freeman, Ferris, Marshall** and **Cain, Sig Renwick, Powell, Dale, Mathews, Fletcher** and **Dike**, Team Manager: **Capt M. D. Bailes**.

FINAL RESULTS—MAJOR UNITS

1st	21st Sig Regt	326 pts
2nd	7th Sig Regt	292 pts
3rd	22nd Sig Regt	255 pts

BRITISH REAR COMBAT ZONE INTER UNIT TEAM ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Grenzland Stadium in Moenchengladbach saw a 21 Sig Regt Athletic Team power their way to yet another convincing win on 3 June in their second major athletic championships of the week and thus qualify for the BAOR Inter Unit Team Championships at Sennelager on 25 June 1988. The final results were:-

Major Units

1st	21 Sig Regt	185 pts
2nd	13 Sig Regt	109 pts

Minor Units

1st	FOD Dulmen	63 pts
2nd	38 Sqn RCT	45 pts
3rd	3 BAD	44 pts

21 Sig Regt
Winners of the Morrison Cup 1988 and the HQ (BR) RCZ Athletics Competition 1988
L-R: Maj Donaghy, LCpl Marshall, Sig Mathews, LCpl Lindo, Sig Dike, Cpls George, Pollard, Sig Powell, Sgt Hardy, Cpl Burrell, Sig Rhodes and Capt Bailes
L-R: Sgt Dos Martyres, WO2 (AQMS) Everingham, Cpls Wilson, Jarvis, Sig Fletcher, Dale, Cpls Brown, Tredwell, Sig Renwick, Sgt Griffiths and LCpl Wood
L-R: Sig Poole, Cpl Farrell, SSgt (YofS) Hall, Lt Col Whitemore, Sgt Poulson, WO1 (RSM) McBain, Cpls Hanlon, Watts, Gorman and LCpl Cain

£5,100 FOR THE ASSOCIATION

Following a very successful year of collecting, cajoling and 'conning' for charity the Regiment was able to present cheques to Regimental associations of soldiers in the Regiment.

During 1987, all charity effort within Wildenrath Station was geared towards collecting for Army and RAF Charities. The total charity fund was split in proportion to relative Army/RAF strengths and our share of the total amount saved amounted to about DM 20,500. Mindful of our 'Air Support' title the Regiment contributed DM 2,000 to the RAF Charity, which was concerned with providing facilities to Princess Marina House, a residential convalescent centre. The balance was converted to £ sterling in order to pass the funds to Army 'in house' charities.

Applying the adage 'charity begins at home', the total amount was divided in loose proportion based on relative strengths to the Regimental Association of each cap badge within the Regiment. Because the funds were for charity and Royal Signals are well served by the supporting arms and services, we employed a certain amount of rounding up in their favour. This arrangement also recognised the prominent part taken by various non Royal Signals groups in providing essential support and co-ordination for all Regimental activities.

In the picture **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**, Comd Comms BAOR, is shown with a cheque for £5,100 for the R Signals Association, flanked by (L to R) **Maj C. P. Donaghy** (2IC and Charity Co-ordinator), **Lt Col N. Holland REME** (Commander Maintenance RCZ), who received £300 for the REME Association, the CO **Lt Col P. Whitemore, Lt Col V. Nichols RAPC** (Commander Finance RCZ) who received £100 for the RAPC Association, **Maj J. Miller ACC** (SO2 Catering Western Region) who received £200 for the ACC Association and **Maj D. Dudderidge** (SO2 Co-ordination HQ 4 Sig Gp) who received £50 for the WRAC Association. A donation of £20 was also sent to the RAOC in recognition of our FAMTO and FATSO Sergeants. In the background is a representative group of soldiers who were involved in the 57 or so activities which raised the money.

HQ SQUADRON ROAD SAFETY

On Thursday 2 June a Safe and Skilled Driving Competition was held as part of the Regiment's Road Safety Campaign. The course was devised by **Capt Tony Hewett** and the stalwarts of HQ MT, **SSgts 'Taff' Eynon** and **Mark Wright-Jones**. Despite a Regimental Call-Out at 0430 hrs and miserable weather conditions—**Cpl John Graham** still believes it was the MTO that called out the Regiment just to set up the course—a good day was had by all participants. The eventual winner was **LCpl Bishop** of 4 Sqn with **Mrs Chris Monteith** carrying off the Dependant's Prize. It was worth noting that 4 Sqn came first, second and third but it was a relief to the other Squadrons that the 'Welly' award also went to that same Squadron—put it down to the Rover 90's that they are normally not allowed to drive!

CO, Lt Col Whitemore, presenting the Driver of the Year award to LCpl Bishop

The CO, Lt Col Whitemore, presenting the Dependants Prize to Mrs Chris Monteith

2IC, Maj Chris Donaghy, ruining yet another cone

1 SQUADRON

1 Sqn set out to win the RAF Battle of Britain Athletics Competition for the third year running.

We 'thanked' our hosts by taking first, second and third places. 1 Sqn gained maximum points in the athletics and moved from sixth place to a close second on the Battle of Britain Trophy Competition.

The next day with the Army Inter Squadron Athletics Competition saw a fresh 2 Sqn team, having not competed the previous day, as the main rivals. 2 Sqn stronger in the field events took a 10 point lead by lunch time over 1 Sqn with all track events finals to come. 1 Sqn pulled back the lead strongly with only the 3,000m Steeple Chase and the Relays to go. **LCpl Mick Hazelgrove** having completed three full laps

dropped out of the 3,000m Steeple Chase thus losing valuable points and the lead again.

A fantastic run by our 4 × 100m team taking first place brought us level with 2 Sqn with the championship depending on the last race of the day. An excellent run by our 4 × 400m team in a time of 3 min 36 sec gave us first place and the championship for the third consecutive year. The beers were on the SSM!

Here are our firsts from the Inter Squadron Athletics Competition:-

100m:	**LCpl Farrell**
400m:	**Sig Renwick**
800m:	**Sgt Dos Martyres**
1,500m:	**Sgt Dos Martyres**
Hammer:	**SSgt Hall**
4 × 100m Relay:	**Cpl Renshaw**
	Cpl Williams
	LCpl Booth
	LCpl Farrell
4 × 400m Relay:	**Sgt Dos Martyres**
	Cpl Tinsley
	LCpl Hazelgrove
	Sig Renwick

2 SQUADRON (HARRIER SUPPORT)
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tim Gigg**
2IC	**Capt Alister Harwell**
Ops Officer	**Capt Duncan McAllister**
SSM	**WO2 Eddy Marsh**
FofS	**WO2 Mick Poland**
YofS	**SSgt Terry McHugh**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Kerr**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Ken Lewis**
Trg Sgt	**Sgt Mick Tharme**
Recce Sgt	**Sgt Norrie Allan**
Sqn Clerk	**LCpl John Hunt**

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

As the first rays of the sun shone through the clouds over RAF Wildenrath, 2 Sqn made preparation for combat. The combat wasn't on the battlefield but on the sports field, against the rest of the Regiment. Yes, it was time for the Inter-Squadron athletics competition. Although 2 Sqn put on an excellent show leading the competition until the last two track events, they were eventually pipped at the post by 1 Sqn. However they managed to win the field events trophy, with some excellent efforts from the throwers **Cpl Paul George, Sig John Powell, SSM 'Eddy' Marsh, Cpl Dave Phillpott**. And the Jumpers **Cpl Kev Jarvis, Cpl 'Ginge' Burrell** and **Sig Garth Dale**.

It was a shame to see the Squadron in second place, but all was not lost. The Tug of War team was coached by **LCpl Andy Shaw** and the members, **Cpls Dave Phillpott, Barry Meeson, LCpls Baz Ward, Stew Sells, Dave Stone, 'Padge' Pardoe** and **Sigs Joe Devitt, Gaz Marshall**. They managed to pull the Squadron's spirit back when they showed the rest of the Regiment what Tug of War was all about.

The team arrived on the day with very little training, although we were a very experienced team from past campaigns. The second we got on the rope we meant business, and no other team managed to defeat our might. As a result of this we were victorious, thus dashing the hopes of the HQ Sqn heavies from the LAD.

The team is now in training for the RCZ league. Good Luck!

F TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Dave Pratt**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Alex Hamilton**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Owen Evans**
	Sgt John Fradley (Radio Operator)
	Sgt Pete Madeloso
	Sgt Steve McIntrye
Tp Stores	**Cpl Dave Phillpott**
	Cpl Mick Rose

Once again F Troop swept the board in the inter troop sports competition by winning the Football, Rugby, Hockey, Squash and Basketball trophies, only allowing SHQ Tp to win the Volleyball trophy as a consolation for their efforts. This competition brought out some sterling performances in particular the football competition from **Cpl Trev Allen, Sig Babs Woodhouse, LCpls Derek Kavanagh** and **'Robo' Robertson** who had to fight to gain selection into the team.

STOP PRESS

The veterans marathon team consists of **Cpl Mick Rose** and **Cpl Dave Phillpott** who are in training for the Moenchengladbach marathon on 15 May. Good Luck.

The Linies have managed to build a path between the Romney shelter and hangar 7, engineering and design by **Sig John Powell**, and redesigned and rebuilt by **Sig 'Hammy' Hamill**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Troop bids a sad farewell to **Capt Dave Pratt** on his posting to Schemes Tp, **Cpl Shawn Courtney** to 22 Sig Regt, **Sig Dean McGeown** to 22 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Evo' Evans** to 7 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Mac' McKenzie** to 30 Sig Regt and **Sig Joe Devitt** to 233 Sig Sqn.

A welcome to **Sig John Powell** and his wife **Susanne** from 4 Div, **LCpl Baz Ward** from 16 Sig Regt, **Sig Kev Unwin** from 4 Div, and **Sig 'Willie' Rushton** from 8 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Steve McIntyre** and his wife **Elaine** on the birth of their daughter and to **Cpl 'Scouse' Renshaw** on his recent promotion.

4 SQUADRON FOOTBALL CLUB

After forming a side in August of 1987 to play in the Station Sunday League the team has gone from strength to strength. The initial aim of promotion was achieved and as a bonus a place gained in the final of the Knockout Plate competition. The team was also awarded the Fair Play Trophy which was competed for by all 19 teams in the leagues.

The team held an end of season presentation night when all individuals received trophies with **Sig 'Matt' Booth** picking up the Player of the Season and **SSgt Phil Clifford** Manager of the Season.

To conclude the season on 25 May 1988, Blackpool Postal Lions FC came to RAF Wildenrath to play a 4 Sqn Select XI captained by **Sgt Garry Hill** which contained several Regimental players because of the reputation of the English side.

On a warm, sunny afternoon a very competitive game took place with 4 Sqn emerging victors by three goals to one.

The Squadron would like to thank Blackpool Postal Lions FC not only for an excellent game, but also for the presentation and friendship shown afterwards.

AMSTERDAM HALF MARATHON

After many months arduous training, a team of eleven members of 4 Sqn 21 Sig Regt plus two Admin Staff crossed the border into Holland on Saturday 7 May in order to take part in the Amsterdam International Marathon the following day.

The team was based in the Kolonel Palm Kaserne in Bussum, just outside Amsterdam. The hotel standard accommodation was very impressive and we were well looked after by our hosts. Following a hectic night of carbo loading in the sleepy town of Bussum, the team set out for Amsterdam early next morning to ensure a parking place near the start area.

The remaining hours leading up to the start of the race were spent on a cultural tour of the more select areas of the city, and despite it being a Sunday morning, this still proved to be an eye opener.

At last the start of the race was upon us, and the team somewhat nervously took its place among the thousands of other participants. The weather was overcast with no sun, but very humid, which made running uncomfortable to say the least. The crowds lining the course were a great morale booster, however, and this helped to ensure that the whole team was finished in under 1 hr 55 mins, a very creditable performance considering seven of the team were first timers.

Cpl Dick Tredwell came home in the quickest time of 1 hr 27 mins, despite running over 400m of the full marathon course by error. **Cpl Jim Hook** and **SSgt Ray Patrickson** followed him in just over 1 hr 30 mins.

All of the team can take satisfaction in the fact that they all came in before the Kenyan **Kip Keino**, but we won't mention the fact that he was running the full Marathon.

The team would like to thank the following: Squadron and PRI funds for entry sponsorship; **Adj Vreugdenhill** of the Dutch Army for his assistance and hospitality; **LCpls Neil Ferris** and **Stu Hallet** for Admin, kit assistance, transport and photography; and finally OC 4 Sqn for allowing us the following Monday off.

The full team was: **SSgt Ray Patrickson, Sgt Garry Hill, Cpls Dick Tredwell, Chris Middleton, Jim Hook, Sig Jim Brabyn, Andy Davis, Jason Petricca, Vince Prince, Reg Vernell** and **'Chalkie' White**.

ANNUAL OFFICERS VS WOs AND SNCOs CRICKET MATCH

The annual grudge match between the upper and middle management took place on Wednesday 4 May at RAF Wildenrath. The weather was perfect—glorious sunshine heralded the commencement of this important fixture.

After the 'toss', the WOs and SNCOs were put into bat. Because of his 'vast experience', the RSM was elected to open the batting with **SSgt Dave Ryder**. This decision proved to be well founded when it was discovered that the Officers' Mess team were using their 'ringer' to open the bowling. The CO, **Lt Col Whitemore**, unleashed an over of pure aggression against the RSM, who handled the pace of the bowling extremely well.

The innings progressed well, if slowly, and eventually the WOs and SNCOs amassed a score of 90 runs for the loss of 10 wickets against some very intimidating bowling from the Officers' Mess side. Top scorer was **SSgt 'Taff' Eynon** with a score of 18 runs.

After an excellent tea, once again supplied by **SSgt 'Nick' Nicholls**, the WOs and SNCOs side took the field.

The Officers' Mess appointed the CO and the Paymaster, **Capt Gary Compson**, as their opening batsmen and they were duly applauded on to the field. The WOs and SNCOs decided to follow the Officers' Mess lead and selected the RSM as opening bowler. To shouts of 'Grenade!' 'Wide!' and other ribald comments, the RSM managed to complete the opening over.

Unfortunately for the CO, (or should we say unfortunately for the Paymaster) he was run out very early in the innings. This was taken in good heart and reports of the Paymaster's imminent posting to Gibraltar being cancelled are, as yet, completely unfounded.

The early loss of their leader seemed to affect the morale of the Officers' Mess side and wickets tumbled quickly and cheaply. Even the rowdy antics of their supporters failed to affect the professionalism and concentration of the fielding side. A tail-end revival led by **Capt Steve Richardson** helped, but nevertheless, the innings ended at 55 runs for the loss of 10 wickets.

This victory gave the WOs and SNCOs their seventh consecutive win. The trophy was presented to the victorious team captain by **Lt Col Whitemore**. In addition the 'Man of the Match' award was presented to **Sgt 'Bev' Beverly**, after consultation between the CO, the RSM and the two umpires.

A very enjoyable day's cricket, played in the true spirit of the game (sic). Many thanks go to all those who helped behind the scenes and to the two umpires, **Cpls Tredwell** and **Snell** and to **LCpl Jonathan Hunt** as scorer.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

BUSY PERIOD

In common with a 1 (BR) Corps Sig Regt we had the SLMB update. However, in addition we had our ARU, the task of organising the Morrison Cup Athletics Meeting and preparing for our DAMA inspection. For those not in the know it is the old Inspector of Establishments examination. Despite this workload some members of the Regiment managed to get away to Sardinia, others had the pleasure of the RSM's Military Skills Competition. Others managaed to earn their LS&GC Medals. For further updates read on . . .

LS&GC MEDAL PRESENTATION

31 March was an auspicious day for seven members of the Regiment; they received their LS&GC Medals. The presentations were made by **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE** Commander 1 Sig Bde to **WO2 (RQMS) Les Wood, SSgts Archie Malcolm, Peter Preen** (PWSST), **Jim Topping, Sgts Pete Casson RCT, Bob Griffiths** and **Cpl Eddie Gregory**. Our BFG Office Sergeant, **Sgt Pete Casson**'s son **David** was present and in uniform as **David** had just arrived as a driver in 1 Armd Div Sig Regt. After the awards **Brig Waugh** made a short address and presented bouquets to all the wives. The presentation was rounded off with a lunch for all the recipients and their families.

LS and GC Presentation
Back Row L to R: Capt Rafferty (Adjt), WO2 RQMS Wood, SSgts Malcolm, Preen, Topping, Brig T. I. M. Waugh, Sgts Casson, Griffiths, Cpl Gregory and CO Lt Col G. J. Barrett
Front Row L to R: Mrs Wood, Mrs Malcolm, Mrs Preen, Mrs Topping, Mrs Casson, Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Gregory

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Stuart Gray-Cowan**
2IC	**Capt Dave Wright**
OC A Tp	**Lt Graham Deans**
OC C Tp	**2Lt Mick Stevens**
SSM	**WO2 Derek Brown**
SQMS	**SSgt John Gadsdon**
YofS	**SSgt Chris Rogan**
FofS	**WO2 Alex Kennedy**

1 Sqn held their Summer Camp (Ex Tarzan Triangle) in the Harz mountains at Torfhaus between 20 May and 3 June. On Friday 20 May the advance party commanded by **Sgt Mick Brown** and **2Lt Mick Stevens** arrived in the late afternoon to prepare the accommodation for the following two weeks and were eagerly welcomed by the SSM **WO2 Derek Brown**. He had been waiting for four hours! To a backdrop of the Brocken standing menacingly in the dying rays of the early summer sun, the weary Churchillians trudged into the hut to await the erecting of the tents the next day. Saturday arrived and with it the sun slowly dispersing the cloud which obscured the mighty efforts of our valiant Troops labouring fiercely to get the job finished. When at last the Brocken broke through the cloud, the camp was prepared, the fire points laid, the barbecue correctly placed, our gallant men retired after completion of a job well done.

The main party arrived on Sunday afternoon, happy to have left behind them the strain of endless duties, fatigues, DTIs etc and looking forward to the coming challenges. After a thorough briefing by the SSM they settled down to an excellent Sunday dinner prepared by **LCpl Paddy Gault**, our magnificent chef for the two weeks.

0600 hrs, Monday—is that really the fire alarm—no it's just a bad dream—*splash*! no it isn't (or similar words) replied **Cpl David Worswick**, wiping the contents of a fire bucket from his head; they soon got the message. Fire practice over and five minutes later all were breathing the cool, fresh mountain air as we jogged around the Danenkopf; quite a start (while the OC **Capt Stuart Gray-Cowan** snoozed on!).

Wide awake by now and having enjoyed a hearty breakfast; the week's activities were to begin.

Rockclimbing/abseilling—with Instructor **2Lt David Drinkall** and spectacular climbs, top roping and abseilling in the Oker Gorge.

Canoeing—Instructor **Sig Charlie Manson** from 4 Sqn, seal entry, 6ft weirs, deep cold water, in the Okertalsperre (Dam).

Mountain walking/navigation—with Instructors **2LT Mick Stevens** and SSM on alternate days, 20km, 25km, 30km and a break every 5km; 'each day we go further and see more!'.

Windsurfing—Instructor **SSgt John Smith**, basic, easy and only glad to be wearing a wet suit.

The first week ended all too quickly on Thursday night and after a most enjoyable barbecue, a challenging session of trivial pursuits took place with the winning team taking possession of the crate. Friday and return to Churchill Barracks refreshed and ready for the rigours of barrack life.

The next Sunday it started all over again with a new group, but this time we were short of **2Lt David Drinkall** and **2Lt Mick Stevens. Sgt Mick Brown** volunteered to stand in for the walking/navigation while the SSM frantically organised rockclimbing aided by 4 Armd Wksps; we thank them for their assistance, without it the week would not have been so successful. During the second week the weather turned a little wet but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm shown by all.

We thank all the instructors for their expert tuition and for making the Summer Camp a worthwhile and challenging experience.

Feeling that Lippstadt was too wet, **Lt Graham Deans** organised an expedition to Sardinia, little did he know . . .

SARDINIA—EXERCISE DECI-ALEX

Expedition members: **Lt Deans, SSgt Anderson, Cpls Eastick, Wilkinson, LCpls Brown, Cuin** and **Sig Calham** (both 16 Sig Regt).

It was a bleak dark morning on 5 April when the expedition set off from Lippstadt at 0500 hrs en route for Sardinia via RAF Wildenrath. Although somewhat bleary eyed the group was in high spirits ready for 'sunny' Sardinia a description which proved not to be totally appropriate when we arrived at RAF Decimomannu courtesy of the Royal Air Force.

The first night on the island was spent in the adventure training base at Capitana preparing ourselves for the beginning of our great trek into the Genurgentu mountains. The previous expedition which was about to leave that day said that they had encountered snow on the hills! Something that had never crossed our minds. So we accepted that they were pulling our legs and set off the next morning to our start point at Fonni which is situated half way up the island.

After a five hour journey in the back of a Bedford on extremely bad roads we were glad to put on our bergans and climb some hills.

The next few days were spent climbing into the mountains; to our amazement we did encounter snow in 'sunny' Sardinia. During the third day on the mountains the weather became so bad with high winds, white outs and torrential rain, that we came down into the valleys for shelter and to warm ourselves with a good old brew up.

By this time the constant battle against the weather seemed to be overwhelming us so we decided to walk the same route at a lower level and climb up on to the peaks whilst staying off the high ridges. We achieved our objectives by climbing Moute Spada (1,595m), Brucca Spina (1,829m) and Punta la Mamora (1,834m).

Eventually we reached Lago Alta Flamendosa; a small lake at the southern end of the Genurgenta Mountain range, where we licked our wounds and bandaged our blisters before moving on to our climbing base at Arbatax some 50km from the lake. Fortunately we did not have to walk all the way. On reaching Lanuesi we sought public transport. At this point morale was raised to its highest point.

On reaching Arbatax we found a small campsite which we would use as our climbing base. During the remainder of our time there we spent our days rock climbing and abseiling on the sea cliffs at Arbatax and occasionally further north at Pedra Longra. The climbing was spectacular, with all varieties of climbs from difficult to severe and worse. This coupled with the fantastic sea views and reasonably hot weather made this an enjoyable part of the expedition.

Towards the end of our stay we decided to stay at Arbatax for our R&R phase as the weather in our planned R&R area was reported as rain and thunder storms.

Our last couple to days on the island were spent back at Cupitana acquiring gifts for our flight home. On the day we were leaving, we were taken to the American PX where the remaining lire were spent, only to be told that the plane had been delayed 24 hours. This resulted in the team having a whip round for an evening meal!

The whole island is at present being opened up to British Forces as an adventure training area. The country is spectacular and the people warm and friendly. It is strongly recommended as an excellent adventure training area with much potential.

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

The Inter Squadron Athletics this year took place at Sennelager Stadium in April

The purpose of the event was to select our athletics team in preparation for the forthcoming season and in particular the Morrison Cup.

With the exception of 2 Sqn who were on their Squadron summer camp all other Squadrons were up to their full compliment of althletes. The 2 Sqn team members competing in quite a few events with a somewhat diminished squad. What's that old saying 'it's not the winning it's the taking part?' . . .

The day began well with brilliant sunshine and eager competitors (at least we think they were eager). They must have been because there were some notable performances especially from **Sig Tomkinson** winning the 110m hurdles and the 400m hurdles and **Cpl Day** sweeping the board in the 100m and 200m events. It soon became clear that the Squadron to beat was 4 Sqn with their all-round sportsmen. They seemed to do well in all events and by the middle of the meeting their leading position became clear and it was now a race for second between 1 and 3 Sqns, with 1 Sqn running out winners by half a point over a disappointed 3 Sqn. However, yet again 4 Sqn lead on the athletics.

MORRISON CUP

Report by Lt Graham Deans OIC Athletics

22 Sig Regt were tasked this year with the organisation, administration and running of the Morrison Cup. A huge task for any single unit to undertake especially with commitments in other areas at the same time. However the Regiment grasped the challenge firmly and succeeded in providing athletes and spectators alike with an enjoyable couple of days at Sennelager.

The actual athletics began on the Tuesday morning with the pole vault, always a good sport where the novices stand out from the people who have competed before. The Regimental team was not particularly strong in any of the field events but the competitors pulled out all the stops in the pole vault to come a respectable fifth. Notable at the pole vault was OC 4 Sqn; **Maj Rob Carter**, an over 40 veteran, who sadly had to retire, when he was going well, due to an injury.

The first day of competition for the team was mainly taken up by heats for both the A and B strings in preparation for the second days finals. There were some notable runs from **2Lt Nick Smith** in both the 400m, 800m and 4 × 400m as well as **Cpl Sean Day** in the 100, 200m and 4 × 100m, the later being aided by some old heads in **SSgt 'Q' Gilder** and **SSgt Nigel Samm** and of course **Cpl Andy Brown**.

The Regiment did not do so well in the field events on the first day but we did manage to come middle of the road gaining valuable points towards the team totals and our final position. At the end of the first day the team was lying in sixth position overall but with our more successful track athletes to come we were confident of improving our position by at least a couple of places.

The second day dawned with the team in good spirits ready to do battle in the finals. They had been told to gain as many points as possible in all events: a task they took to heart by running themselves into the ground, especially **Sig Harland** and **2Lt Nick Smith** who both came through to pip competition on the line and gain welcome points for the team. By lunch time the team had moved up to fourth position chasing 3 Armd Div and Sig Regt for third place with our strong relay teams and sprinters still to come.

The throwers and field events again improved the position by doing even better in their events that previously which moved the team into third position behind 7 and 21 Sig Regts. So by mid afternoon the team was lying 17 points ahead of fourth position, with the final relays to take place. The only brief that was given to the athletes at this stage was try and gain more points than the fourth placed 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. This they did with great fervour except for the 4 × 100m. The teams came through to produce the best position ever achieved by the Regiment in the Morrison Cup, a well deserved third place behind 7 Sig Regt in second place and the winners 21 Sig Regt.

To complete the success of the Regiment over the two days the tug-of-war team managed second place only being pulled by 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the final of the 640kg class. Therefore overall a successful result for the Regiment.

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Manders**
2IC	**Capt Tim Wadey**
SSM	**WO2 Mo Harkin**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Peter Barron**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Garry Annetts**
OC D Tp	**2Lt Bill Fathers**
OC E Tp	**Lt Neil Longley**
OC F Tp	**Lt Tony Urwin**

SUMMER CAMP

In common with the rest of the Regiment, the last few months have seen us busy. Following the long sequence of exercises, in February was Site Guard, with its associated training, then came Squadron training weeks, more exercises, The Morrison Cup, and a combined effort for both DAMA and SLMB. For 40 members of the Squadron there was, however, a little light relief: Summer Camp. This year it was held in April (well nearly summer!) in Sontofen, better known for Ex Snow Queen. Before you guess it, yes, there was still snow on the hills, as part of the aim of Summer Camp was to introduce as many of the camp as possible to Ski Touring. To this end, **Sgt Jim Perry** and two other Snow Queen instructors came to the hut (kindly loaned to us by 32 Heavy Regt) and each day set off at the crack of dawn to try and ski up a couple of hills before the avalanches started. This proved very popular, not least because it got people off the early morning run and had to finish fairly early (due to snow conditions) whence après ski followed in a mountain cafe.

Other activities included a walk in the hills with the **Foreman Garry Annetts** and Top Roping and abseiling which was conducted by **Lt Neil Longley**.

For the finale we planned a barbecue and work went ahead under the skilled eye of **SSgt Wally Drain**. The planning and execution approached the scale of the Morrison Cup organisation and everything (except Pimms—Sontofen NAAFI let us down) was laid on. After six days of glorious sunshine the rain came in a thunderous deluge. All was not lost as the barbecue retreated into **Sgt P**'s garage and ourselves to the bar. Despite such distractions **Cpl Kevin Coy ACC** excelled and produced a superb meal which we complemented by tasting the local beers.

With this deterioration in weather the snow conditions became poor and the visibility dropped. This curtailed the longer skiing routes and produced some rather alarming cracks along the ridge line—'**Sgt Perry**—which side of the crack shall I ski?' was a common cry. Having said that, we met up with a large party of German Army skiers, and shared our mid morning break chatting in broken German and English on one of the peaks before both groups set off downhill into the mist.

To insert a little fun into the week we added a command task type competition at the end; which included a rope crossing of a nearby pond. After not too many wet feet everybody got across, and completed their other tasks.

The rain had stopped and Bavaria was again basking in spring sunshine by the time we left, and this combined with the thought of the work awaiting on the vehicle park made us all wish we could stay longer.

SNCO's MIL SKILLS COMPETITION 1988

The story of this year's competition is filled with courage, self sacrifice and humour above and beyond the call of duty. Only the facts have been changed to make it more interesting.

Flushed by the success of last year and knowing that he would be on another holiday in Hong Kong just prior to the event, the RSM **WO1 Trev Johnson** tasked **SSgt Martin Smith** of the Regimental Training Wing with the organisation of this year's extravaganza.

The initial scheme which involved a seaborne landing off the coast of Norway followed by a pre-emptive strike at Oslo was vetoed on the grounds that the majority of training stores were required for the Regimental Battle Camp and that only three days could be set aside in an already crowded forecast of events. Disappointed but still keen **Staff Smith** was forced into a rethink. By working his head to the bone and the Training Wing staff to distraction a less ambitious but very demanding two-phase exercise was slowly pieced together.

PHASE 1

Classed as the 'build up' this phase was carried out in barracks and consisted of a series of stands run on the 'round robin' principle.

In general terms these stands covered mandatory training subjects with the addition of command tasks and an assault course race, but the organisers of each were allowed to let their imaginations run riot. First Aid under the direction of **Cpl Phil Price** resembled MASH with casualties running into numbers that vied with the Battle of the Somme. NBC eating and drinking drills were enhanced by the mix of cheese, wine and CS gas and **WO2 (SSM) Brian Cullen**'s field cookery area where Benhazi burners were the order of the day required a person with suicidal tendencies to go near it as teams of SNCO's were let loose with petrol, sand, empty oil drums and matches. Perhaps the highlight of the day was the assault course under the eye of **WO2 (QMSI) Jeff Archer** who, not content with the severity of the various obstacles, introduced a tunnel of fire to encourage those of a less speedy nature.

At 1800 hrs on day one the survivors mustered in the Sergeants' Mess for a briefing and orders session for Phase 2. **Staff Smith**, not known for his retinence, was still determined to play low key and proceeded to enliven events by executing an enemy prisoner on the best Mess carpet.

For those persons to whom scores mean anything, at this stage 3 Sqn were leading the field and HQ Sqn, the underdogs, were lying third.

PHASE 2

After a day's rest to enable minor injuries to be rested and broken bones and spirits to be reset the teams moved out to Wittloge Ranges at 0500 hrs for a punishing two day field exercise.

The emphasis on Phase 2 was firmly on shooting. A comprehensive range programme had been put together by **WO1 Mick Hanlon** and all teams in the course of the next 36 hours found themselves firing; SLR and SMG advanced applications of fire, SLR night shoots with IWS and an introduction shoot on the SA 80. 4 Sqn who at this stage had not been doing too well proceeded to win all the shooting events, due mainly to the fact that a lot of prone position was involved.

There was very little rest between shooting events for in addition the following tasks had to be completed; a 10 mile 'tab', a grenade stalk, a section attack (with SA 80 and LSW), a recognition patrol and finally a night recce. Suffice it to say that by midday on Friday not many of the teams or DS could say they were not tired. Sense of humour failures had been few, injuries minor and commitment total. **SSgt Keith Leighton** and **Sgt Jim Macloughlin** had honed the art of protect to a razor edge, **Martin Smith** had taken diplomacy into uncharted areas of bluntness and the RSM had moved amongst it all with a smile that seemed to imply that his mind was still in Hong Kong or that it had all gone rather well.

As ever there has to be a winner and 3 Sqn retained the trophy they had won the previous year but be warned plans are already afoot to wrest it from them next time.

Prizes were presented in the Sergeants' Mess where over a few beers war stories were recounted that grew ever more epic with each telling.

FINALLY THE THANK YOU'S

To **SSgt Martin Smith** for organising it all, sometimes under stress but never without humour.

WO1 Mick Hanlon without whose many contacts in the SASC the SA 80's and IWS would not have appeared.

Cpls Phil Price, 'Scouse' Curlett and **Eddie Gregory** who gave up many weekends and evenings prior to the event and worked ceaselessly throughout it.

Naturally, there are two sides to every story here is 3 Sqn's view of the competition.

3 Sqn's team for the three day Military Training comprised: **SSgt Samm, SSgt Gilder, SSgt Cooper, Sgt Holt, Sgt McLachlan** and **Sgt Skimming**.

With all the usual preparation, the team was finalised the night before and met at 0655 hrs on 19 April to start our defence of the Senior NCO's military skills competition. The first event was a BFT in which we had all 6 runners in the first 12. This was just the start we required and after a first day which comprised Rangers, NBC, First Aid, Military Potted Skills, Krypton Factor and a Stretcher/Assault Course race, we were 14 points in front, but not without some laughs such as **SSgt Paul Cooper** trying to eat Gorgonzola cheese whilst in the NBC chamber. **Sgt Skimming** walking round the football pitches with a Poncho over his head looking for some road cones, or seeing a terrified young LCpl who is wondering what you are going to do with that First Field Dressing. But the best was yet to come with the Assault Course producing some added attractions such as flaming trenches and rolls of barbed wire. **SSgt 'Q' Gilder** and **Sgt Darrel Skimming** were more than perturbed when the trench was lit as they were half way across with the stretcher; **Sgt Holt** had the best view of this as he was stuck half way up the scramble net watching the rest of the team finish. Wednesday was a very relaxing day comprising mainly Dry Training on the SA 80 and IWS. But the Training Wing made up for this with a 12 mile march and shoot with stands every few miles to break up the running but stiffen up the muscles, this proved to be the hardest phase, although it also proved the best moments, such as **SSgt Nigel Samm** feeling underneath a Poncho for 10 minutes looking for a gas plug for his nearly assembled SLR with the rest of the team providing plenty of encouragement; he

wished the ground would swallow him up when, after the time was up, he found it beside his elbow. **Sgt Jim McLachlan** proved that 18 years of Celtic v Rangers matches had not been wasted when he scored with all four grenades on the grenade stalk. Our only failing on this phase was our shooting we proved we couldn't hit a barn door from the latch handle.

After a few cups of tea and a rather large lunch we started Thursday afternoon looking like an OAP party at Blackpool until we saw the Video camera which brought everyone out in radiant smiles and no more muscle cramps. During the afternoon we showed our talents at such stands as, Section Attacks, Soviet Recognition, Orders, Chemical Recce, with one memorable moment when on the Section Attack **SSgt 'Q' Gilder** went charging through a puddle only to find it was waist deep and very cold.

In the early evening we built our bashas well at least most of us thought they were bashas until we spied **Sgt Darrel Skimming**'s four star bungalow with restaurant attached. Our night Recce was not as quiet as it could have been, in fact a herd of elephants would have been quieter and not hit so many trip flares as we did.

Friday was just two events the SMG shoot and the SA 80 shoot we entered this last phase with the knowledge that we were in the lead, but with 2 Sqn hot on our heels, but with some excellent shooting with the SMGs we managed to fend them off and win the RSM's cup for the second year running.

It was an excellently run three days and many lessons have been learned, team spirit and morale throughout the whole camp by all teams was very high and many jokes and experiences were swapped in the mess bar that night.

3 Sqn's Winning Team in the Military Skills Competition
Back Row (L to R): Maj Hanrahan (OC), SSgt (SQMS) Gilder, Sgts Skimming, Holt and WO2 (SSM) Cullen
Front Row (L to R): SSgts (FofS) Cooper, Samm and Sgt McLachlan

The Live Oak crew deployed on another Ex Railex/Probex. Here is their report from 'the sharp end'! . . .

EXERCISE RAILEX/PROBEX

The Live Oak detachment from 22 Sig Regt deployed again on another exhausting and demanding exercise. The team led by **WO2 (YofS) Jason Wood** left Lippstadt at an unearthly hour in the early morning, arriving at Helmstedt with all the crew ready, willing and able to start the exercise in earnest.

After the JNCO's had been shown their luxury five star accommodation (a garage with hot and cold running camp beds) **Cpl Saunders** expressed his view of the situation, expecially when the SNCO's were being accommodated in a humble room complete with clean sheets and bunkbeds. We proceeded to set up what must be some of the last remaining T100 and associated secure equipments left in BAOR. Also possibly one of the last remaining T100 and associated secure equipment experts in the form of TE Tech **Cpl Jarvis** who was there for much needed trouble shooting, that is when he was available and not boosting the takings of the NAAFI Roadhouse Café!

WO2 (YofS) 'One Arm' Wood being reluctantly helped into the TEV by Sgt 'Admin' Joughin above and Cpl 'Bullet' Courtney below

The Good Guys starring WO2 (YofS) Wood, Sgt Joughin, Sig Robertson, Smith, Brown, Cpl Courtney, Sig Lund and Cpl 'Moaner' Saunders

Another exciting Comms challenge thrown our way was the working of an archaic manual switchboard exchange which happened to be located in an old RMP room converted from a prison cell. The trouble is not all the conversion has taken place yet as **Sig Lund** discovered when, after closing the door, he realised there was no handle on the inside to allow him access back in to the real world (as we know it). An interesting event on the operating side of the exchange was when **Sgt Ray Joughin** called **Sig Brown** the resident shift exchange operator and asked to be connected to an extension in Lippstadt. Ten minutes later and after a lot of grunts and groans but no polite 'trying to connect you Sir' from the exchange operator, the sarge decided to stomp downstairs to the exchange to see what the hold up was all about. He approached the operator in the exchange and was told 'hang on sarge I am just trying to connect some idiot upstairs to a number in Lippstadt' the operator was then picked up off the floor and once more introduced to the courtesies of operating a manual switchboard exchange.

Meanwhile **Sig 'Robo' Robertson** and **Sig Smith** were suffering burnt fingers from the red hot TX and RX printers. This was due to a particularly busy time in the form of a drill traffic phase, which went very well as shown by the totals from the traffic analysis. Another aspect of the exercise required the deployment of a TEV to a forward field position. Comms were again well provided.

Other particular highlights of the exercise was a chance of a visit to the inner German border for some of the lads with the British Frontier Service who kindly provided a vehicle and gave us a personal guided tour. Also the end of exercise a barbecue with generous helpings of good grub for all participants was very much appreciated, in particular by the Live Oak SO2 Coms **Maj Gus Gurr**.

In conclusion the exercise proved very interesting and was very much enjoyed and with the detachment having once more gained valuable experience in a different sphere of Comms.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

EXERCISES

Over the past two months the Regiment has been involved in two exercises; Ex Fran Check 11-15 April, a simple 'plug up' exercise on the Regimental Square and Ex Canary Caper 2/88 5-10 June, a Northag Signal Group (NSG) exercise. The whole Regiment deployed to the field location for the latter, and despite frequent heavy rainstorms and maneating mosquitos, managed to complete a useful test of communications within NSG and out to the Corps areas.

VISITS

We have had a number of visitors including the St Tonis/Vorst Bürgermeister **Herr Beckers**, who came for lunch on 18 April. In barracks, the Regiment also hosted Comd Maint, **Lt Col N. Holland REME** on 19 May Comd Labour Resource, **Col Telfer** and Comd Catering **Lt Col T. Hurst** on 2 June. Then during the exercise we welcomed numerous visitors including ACOS G3 **Brig Harley** and COS RCZ **Lt Col Mitchinson**.

SPORTS

Once again our sporting calendar has been very full. In the RCZ SAAM, the Regimental team were runners up and the WRAC team won the March and Shoot competition. Undeterred by ferry strikes, picketing etc a group of 11 hardy runners headed for UK to take part in the Blandford Tower Run on Sunday 15 May. All completed the race and the proceeds from their sponsorship will be donated to the Childrens' Ward RAF Hospital Wegberg.

The two Inter-Troop Competitions, Tennis and Cricket were won by Papa Tp and Bravo Tp respectively.

Finally, a most enjoyable fun event took place on 17 May—the annual NSG 'It's A Knockout' competition. This was won by a team from 1 Sqn.

FRAN FETE

The Regimental Fete took place on Saturday 4 June. This year the Fete was opened by **Miss Leslie Crowther** from SSVC and the star prize in the Charity Draw was a Seat Marbella. Luckily the rain kept off the various stalls and displays through the afternoon and a considerable sum of money was raised for the Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) appeal and other charities.

NEWS FROM SUPPORT SQUADRON

Extensive renovations in Support Sqn by HSC were completed recently to facilitate the relocation of the PRI facilities in the offices recently vacated by the Unit Admin Staff.

A complete changeover of personalities went with the new premises with **Maj (Retd) Colin Stevens** to QM(A) together with **Mrs Sabine Bingham** as Civil Labour Clerk, following the retirement of **Frau Schneider** after 34 years service with BAOR, 18 of which were served with 28 Sig Regt.

Lt Rod Gladwin takes over as OC PRI with **Sgt Bob Francis** and **Mrs Rebecca Nixon** recruited as willing clerks.

Pictured below is **Mrs Rebecca Nixon** making the first sale following the official opening by **Mrs Pandy Chubb** wife of the CO **Lt Col Chubb. Mrs Shirley Gladwin** waits her turn while in the background **Sgt Bob Francis** takes care of paperwork.

1 SQUADRON

BRAVO TROOP NEWS

As a Troop we wish a happy and successful tour to the following: **Sig Porter, Cpl Spense Wilson, Sig Counter** and **LCpl Clark**. For those leaving we would like to say thank you and goodbye to the following: **SSgt Moses Pennington, Cpl Phil Headland, WCpl Sandy Thorn, Sig Drippy Hay, Sig Gaz Parkes** and **WPte Michelle Collyer**.

BATTLE CAMP

1 Sqn held its battle camp somewhere in Germany. From our secret hideaway we managed to practise the usual drills. Some of which some members had forgetten. For example **Sig Fritz Hinde** has forgotten the proper procedure for challenging, instead he chose to shout 'halt', everyone stopped and moved to cover, his next shout was 'password', everyone started to laugh and **Fritz** was left wondering what he had done wrong.

Alpha Tp managed to move with great stealth across a field until challenged by a herd of cows. It is a great shame that the Olympic qualifying event is being held in the UK, otherwise five soldiers would have qualified for the 100m and hurdles events. Another event concerned **Lt Chattaway** who, whilst attempting to clear a path for his assault group was confronted by an electric fence. Showing some bravery he cleared the fence successfully but not before he had plugged himself into the National Grid.

We have several engagements ahead, Ex Canary Caper, Fran Fete, KAPE Tour, Summer Camp, so we shall continue to be kept busy.

ALPHA TROOP

April saw the start of the summer round of Inter-Troop Competitions. After being counted out into second place in the winter competition the Troop has high hopes for this round, the results so far are, CFT Competition—third (we took first place in the assault course phase), runners up in the Cricket and holding the rest of the Regiment up in Tennis despite having the Regimental Tennis Officer **Lt Debbie Wheatley-Price** as a member of the team.

Sgts Al Young and **John Ferris** have been spending some time in hospital recently and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to **Sig Sanders** on his promotion to Lance Corporal.

Welcome to the following new members of the Troop: **WCpl Tomkins, WLCpl Dobinson, LCpl Coleman, Sig Evemy, Jones** and **WPte Spilsbury**. A sad farewell to **Sgt Steve Stackwood** on his return to civvy street we wish him good luck and good fortune.

FOCUS ON 2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Andrew Bowering**
2IC	**Capt Brian Peel**
SSM	**WO2 Martin Roberts**
YofS	**WO2 Pete Wykes**
FofS	**WO2 Paul Wilson**
OC Papa	**Capt Carol Lee**
OC Oscar	**SSgt Les Robinson**

OSCAR TROOP

The highlight of the year so far has been Oscar winning the 87/88 Winter Inter-Troop Competition, for the third year running. However no sooner were the celebrations over than we deployed on a mini battle camp. After two days on the ranges during which **Cpl Toni Morland** showed us some amazing skills with an SLR, we embarked on Ex Short Stay. The Squadron 2IC **Capt Brian Peel**, had provided us all with a two day holiday, well he did say we would have sun, sand and water. It turned out to be a two day Patrol and defence exercise, which of course we all enjoyed as much as a holiday!! Pity the sun, sand and water were accompanied by things like stand to's. SPAL's and patrols. If this was Ex Short Stay things do not look good for Long Stay!

On a more serious note the Troop bids a farewell to **Capt Tim Pender-Johns** and eagerly awaits the arrival of **Capt Mike Davies**.

2 SQUADRON

Absence from *The Wire* should not suggest that Papa Tp has formed an under-ground movement.

The main topic of conversation throughout March was the Papa Tp block warming party that got out of hand. At 0530 hrs 17 March there was a fire in the block that destroyed two rooms and smoke damaged the remainder, if ever there was a case for 'it won't happen to me' this should serve as a warning to anyone stupid enough not to have personal insurance.

With the fire and subsequent clean up operation serving as a preparation for the Commander's inspection week the extra hours put in at night and weekends were accepted and rewarded with a good inspection result from the Commander.

The Papa Tp 'brush and bucket brigade' traded in their cleaning paraphernalia for guns and things to enter the CFT March and Shoot Competition as rank outsiders. This notable victory produced some 'dark horses' in the athletic shape of **Sig Andy Rigby** who proved to be a bit of a demon on the assault course. This had the amazing affect of putting Papa Tp into the lead for the overall inter-troop competition even if it was the first event of the year. As rank outsiders Papa then went on to win the second competition, Tennis, **LCpl Neil Phillips** and **Sig Andy Stocks** put up a formidable performance and were unbeaten all afternoon. **SSgt Joe Harris** and **Cpl Bob Breheney** won a few more than they lost and **LCpl Jerry Hall** won most of his matches as **Capt Carol Lee** tried to keep out of his way.

The next major event for the Troop was the Northag Signal Group 'It's a Knockout' competition, an annual event for all Nationalities with the Group. Organised and directed by **Sgt Jon Duckworth**, the competition day was blessed with glorious weather. Nine teams entered, representing all the Units in the Group. Everything went without a hitch and both competitors and spectators had a very enjoyable afternoon. The eventual winners were 1 Sqn; 2 Sqn came a close second.

Cpl Duncan *(Foreground)* on his way to clinch first place for 2 Sqn in the obstacle course race

Ex Short Stay
The enemy, SSgt Barry Lewis studying the lie of the land

Cpls Andy Elliot and Mark Giles strike it lucky with a sandy trench

Cpl 'Woody' Woodruff does all the work whilst Cpl Andy Moore looks on

Sgt John Duckworth in pensive mood

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EXERCISE CYGNET GLOBE 9

Ex Cygnet Globe is an annual worldwide HF communications exercise which took place over the period 25-29 April.

It was planned and executed by **WO2 (FofS) Campbell-Morrison.** Participation increases each year and this year there were 45 individual stations from 12 different countries taking part.

Stations were grouped according to their geographical locations and a control station was nominated for each group. At Blandford an HF radio detachment was assigned to each group. Two man liaison teams were sent to, and received from, each group. The following is a list of countries and 30 Sig Regt liaison personnel who took part:-

USA:	**WO2 (YofS) Harry Brant, Cpl 'Angus' Palmer** (who remained in USA until 3 June for Ex Cobb Ring!)
Canada:	**Cpl Andy Armitage, Sig Nigel Nickson.**
Australia:	**WO2 (YofS) Garth Pickersgill, Sgt Dean Richardson.**
New Zealand:	**Sgt 'Jenks' Jenkins, LCpl Keir Clarke-Brown.**
Belize:	**Cpl Nick Kimber, Cpl Kev Lee.**
Cyprus:	**LCpls Martin, Heap, Len Bibby.**
Gibraltar:	**Cpls Matthews, Trask.**
Hong Kong:	**Lt Dave Robson, Cpl Geoff Love.**
West Germany:	**LCpl Greene, Sig Bishop.**

Stations from Nepal and Brunei also took part but without liaison teams.

After exhaustive preparations, the Exercise was under way. Each detachment in Blandford was linked to Radcon by Matel and sitreps were telephoned every half hour. Radcon was left in the capable hands of **SSgt Colin Whawell, Sgts Bob Goode, Andy Winter** and **Eddie Grattidge BEM,** whilst trouble shooting and detachment visits were carried out by **WO1 (YofS) Percy Beynon, WO2 (FofS) Morrison** and **SSgt (YofS) Marriott.**

Communication with every country was established in varying degrees, and of particular note were the Gibraltar (Det Comd **Cpl Tolker)** and the West Germany (Det Comd **Cpl Paul Sutcliffe)** detachments which achieved RATT communications for most of the exercise.

An exercise of this nature will always produce some hilarity and the following must go down as the exercise 'classic':-

> After establishing communication with Australia, whose time 10 hours ahead of GMT, the Blandford detachment enquired as to the time over there. The reply from Australia was 'It's 2119Z over' to which Blandford replied 'That's funny it's 2119Z here as well!'.

Endex was midday 29 April and **WO2 (FofS) Campbell Morrison** breathed a sigh of relief. However, **SSgt (YofS) Dave Marriott** took a sharp intake of breath when informed that he would be planning and executing Cygnet Globe 10 next year.

1 SQUADRON ADVENTURE TRAINING CAMP
by Capt P. H. Smith

1 Sqn ran an adventure training camp in Cornwall during the first two weeks of May. The camp was based at Penhale and many activities were attempted but, it has to be said, some more successfully than others!

Sgt Dave Preston found a rather exciting rockface on which to terrorise his rock climbing students. He watched with glee as many performed Elvis Presley impressions on a tiny ledge.

Sig Mal McLaren put in an excellent performance during the orienteering competition. There was a serious discussion at the end as to whether **Cpl Fritz Arunasalon** got 'confused' or read a book on the way round. **Sig 'Eddie' Edwards** looked particularly cool on the beach wearing his pink and yellow wetsuit. He rather spoilt the image by continually falling off his windsurfer. **LCpl Kev Bird** dabbled in the water sport activities but found the water temperature too cold for his liking. Water skiing turned out to be a popular but rather chilly activity!

Many displays of grit and bravery were in evidence during the riding sessions. In particular **Sgt Preston** produced an excellent demonstration of rodeo riding without stirrups. **SSgt Ian Duncan** won the coarse fishing competition with a remarkable 78 fish—it's amazing what you can get in Sainsbury's. **Cpl Paul Williams** caught a 1½lb Mirror Carp, **Cpl Kev Lee** hooked a 1¼lb Roach while **Cpl Andy Tuck** made do with a 2oz Roach.

During the camp the weather varied from blazing sun to wind and rain. Cornwall in early summer proved to be an excellent location for adventure training.

EXERCISE CALEDONIAN CYGNET

Ex Caledonian Cygnet, a skiing exercise, took place over the period 26-31 March in the Cairngorms in Scotland.

The exercise, organised by the Adjt **Capt Barry Keegan** and the Chief Clerk, **WO2 (ORQMS) John Pape**, aimed at providing skiing for members of HQ Sqn. The exercise party consisted of **Capt Keegan, WO2 (ORQMS) Pape, Sgt Brian Glover, Cpls Mick Parrish, Kev White (AAC), LCpl Kev Varley** and **Sig Young** with support from MT **Sgt Chris Kerrigan** and **Sig Chris Hunt.** Also taking part were **Capt Mark Butler, Mrs Toni Butler** and **Mr Tony Hyde** (civilian staff member).

Based in HQ Scotland's Rothiemurchus Lodge, just outside Aviemore, the party travelled to the crowded slopes of the Cairngorms each morning after recovering skis, sticks etc from the possession of **LCpl Kev Varley**. There was some initial amusement amongst the first-time skiers, (the Chief Clerk's impression of a snowball is hilarious) until the basics were mastered.

The party's confidence grew during the first three days, with the exception of a few minor 'hiccups'. One incident which did occur was particulary funny, **Capt Keegan** was most concerned that we novices couldn't master the turns. He would 'demonstrate the movement' by plunging the ski sticks in the snow at 3ft intervals, the first two sticks were his. However, when it came to parting with his sticks, **WO2 'Snowball' Pape** stood firm in the belief that at 100ft up a steep slope ski sticks are more valuable than skiing techniques and made his feelings quite plain—censored!!

By the third day we 'novices' were persuaded to tackle the White Lady run. Our expedition leader was—yes, you've guessed—**Capt Keegan** and cajoled by **Sgt Brian Glover**, the party continued to attempt higher runs although **Sig Young** seemed to develop vertigo and had to spend the remainder of the day getting down the slope!

The five days skiing was enjoyed by all and made a startling contrast to the joys of Blandford Camp. The irony of this tale is that our instructor, **Capt Keegan** came away with a dislocated elbow whilst we novices returned unscathed from the expedition.

Does anyone know of a sheer cliff face for **Sgt Brian Glover** to ski down!

L to R: Cpl Mick Parrish, LCpl 'Klepto' Varley, WO2 John 'Snowball' Pape and Sgt Brian Glover

Adjt Capt Barry Keegan and LCpl Kelpto Varley demonstrate the Scots' method of saving on ski-wear—you only use one ski!

SHOOTING
by Capt Lewis-Taylor

Three days training at Fort Tregantle, near Plymouth, was all the preparation the Regimental shooting team had for the South West District SAAM. Fire team and Association Matches were a rude awakening for the likes of **Sig Burdus, Cox** and **Major**, who thought they would be doing another APWT. **Lt Paul Graham** never did get the hang of firing downhill, but he did manage to scare off the local fishing fleet. Despite strong reservations from **SSM MacKinnon**, the 15 man team was selected from a cast of thousands, to uphold the honour of the Regiment.

Came the day, caution was thrown to the wind and **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor**, not formerly renowned for his shooting ability, assured the team that they had nothing to lose. In the event, the team surpassed all expectations, and came second in the Other Arms competition. **Cpl Tony Sherwin** achieved second place in the Individual SMG match, and consistent scores were recorded by **Capts Graham Lewis-Taylor, Steve Ardagh-Walter, Cpl George McGuire, LCpls Setch Setchfield** and **Bob Sizeland**.

SAILING
by Capt Lewis-Taylor

Since winning the Three Peaks Yacht Race in 1982, the Regiment has relaxed and enjoyed the more sedate side of Offshore Sailing. That is, until recently, when the newly formed '30 Sig Regt Sailing Team' stormed home to win the inaugural Royal Signals Offshore Regatta (UK). The Regiment entered two boats, skippered by **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor** and **SSgt Lew Oehme**, fresh from the RSYC Day Skippers course. With the likes of **Capt Mark Butler** and **Maj Jack Amberton** in support, there were bound to be fireworks! The first race was something of a disappointment, with both boats, *Galloper* and *Patroner* finding the notorious Bramble Bank a little too close for comfort, allowing 1 Inf Bde and the School of Signals easy passages to first and second place on the finish line.

Nevertheless, the Regiment bounced back in the second day, with two wins for the 'A' team, due, in the main, to some inspired spinnaker handling by **LCpl 'Ken' Kendall**. The B team was well pleased to avoid the dreaded 'last place', and notched up a creditable fourth place.

Various watering holes in Cowes and Lymington were investigated, but there was little energy left to enjoy them.

The last race was an Endurance Exercise, convincingly won by **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor** and the 'A' team, 20 minutes ahead of the second boat. Neither team can remember much about what happened in Yarmouth that night, except that the Trophy, a Brass Ships Bell which used to be in the Princess Mary Hall, now hangs proudly ouside the CO's office!

RIDING
by Sgt Tomison

Since arriving in the Regiment last April I have managed to keep a high profile in equestrian events, both on a local and a national level.

Ozzielation, a source of inspiration to his less talented jockey, managed to turn in some useful performances. This year his winnings included the Warminster Military Hunter Trials, and a second place in a section of the School of Infantry Horse Trials. However dressage was always Ozzies strong point and he has made it as far as medium level by winning and being placed at national competitions up and down the country.

Sadly Ozzie is not getting any younger and has developed many symptoms of old age. Yet he can still turn in a useful performance and, unfortunately for him, has to be forced out of retirement, yet again, to compete at the Riding Club National Dressage Championships in June.

Hopefully I shall be buying a young competition horse in the near future, but ideal horses with good conformation, correct mental attitude and healthy enough to pass the most strict vetting, are few and far between. The two best horses I have seen so far have both failed the vetting.

In the meantime I have the loan of a 16.2hh liver chestnut called Johnny Walker for showjumping. He has the dubious distinction of being the only thing alive to dump the CO on the deck, and get away with it! But he may redeem himself this year by winning a few of the Army showjumping competitions. He is entered for Larkhill Army Show and, hopefully, the Royal Tournament.

COMMANDING OFFICERS DINING OUT

The Blandford Camp Sergeants' Mess said farewell to the CO in the traditional way by dining him out of the Mess. **Lt Col Butler** insisted that the night should be of a quiet nature to enable him to speak to everyone individually before his departure. It was noticed throughout the evening though that the CO's pint never seemed to disappear. However, everyone else's did, but they weren't drinking them. Sir, you were seen by numerous Mess members that night drinking everyone else's beer! (Someone told the RSM that he was teetotal!).

Lt Col Butler was sure that he ordered a silver set

Lt Col Butler receives his proper farewell gift this time from the RSM

FAREWELL TO LT COL W. K. BUTLER

Many readers may already be aware that 30 Sig Regt said farewell to its outgoing CO—**Lt Col Keith Butler** on 29 April. Indeed, the Daily Express' touching valedictory 'Champagne Colonel Comes a Cropper!', may serve as a reminder! For those of you who shun such 'lowbrow' newspapers and did not attend the SOinC's conference, a synopsis is hereby produced.

After much deliberation and subterfuge, a suitable means of 'transporting' the CO out of Camp was arrived at when **Sgt Mick Tomison**—our erstwhile Harvey Smith managed to procure the services of 'Johnny Walker' a 16.2hh liver chestnut. All went well, initially; (especially since the CO admitted he had to ride a horse on his Q Course), with 'pre-flight drinks' provided by the Asst Adjt—**2Lt Jane Lawrence** and topped-up by the Adjt en route. However, the climax, which was to have been a 'dignified' dismount to 'three cheers' from the lads who had lined the route, turned into a scene from 'Urban Cowboy'—the rest is history!

The Regiment wishes **Col Keith** and his wife **Helen** many 'happy landings' in Bielefeld.

Lt Col Keith Butler is presented with a mantel clock by Sig Eddie Edwards (the youngest soldier in the Regiment) from all the soldiers in the Regiment

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

LADIES NIGHT DINNER

Our retiring Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave KBE MC** was dined out in April at a particularly jolly dinner night. He presented a magnificent pair of brass cranes (the bird kind) to the Regiment. He was in turn presented with figurines of R Signals and WRAC soldiers and a print of the Royal Signals Public Duties Squadron taking over the guard at Buckingham Palace.

We also said farewell to **Maj Paul Whittle** and **Stephanie** after many years' service with the Regiment, latterly as 2IC. **Paul** has taken a position with the Military Secretary's department at London District HQ so we shall not be totally out of touch. We wish **Paul** and **Stephanie** every success and happiness in the future.

CHANGE IN MARTIAL STATUS

We are pleased to announce that **Capt Sue Fenney WRAC** is now to be known as **Capt Sue Pearce** following her marriage to **Capt Adrian Pearce** (regular Royal Signals). We wish them a happy future and hope that **Mrs Pearce** will be a better map-reader than **Miss Fenney** was!

A pensive Capt Sue Pearce covering up the wrong name tab

EXERCISE KENTISH MAIDEN

The Regiment's last fling before annual camp in NW Europe was Ex Kentish Maiden held in the 'Garden of England'. K Troop of 41 Sqn was, to its dismay, sited in a Courage Pub car park and were thus much visited by PSI **Sgt Frank Vaughan. Ptes Emma Shoubridge, Michelle McNary** and **Sue Lamb** cammed up his landrover so well that he drove off without it! **LCpl Ian Jeeves ACC** waited till three minutes before final whistle before producing his portable radio but was forgiven when he produced fried eggs for Sunday brekkers. Apart from **LCpl Tanya Rock** being bitten by the ACL (so she said) and **LCpl Paul Holmes** not being able to rugby-tackle the enemy a good time was had by all.

Sgt Kate Williams and Kim Burt show Sgt Frank Vaughan the ladylike way to prepare pilchard sandwiches (41 Sqn)

SSgt (SQMS) Clive Brown (47 Sqn) 'invests' in a fat-free breakfast

Cpl Cheryl Borowska (47 Sqn) powering up

Poseurs Cpl Trevor Thurlow Sig Mick Connaughton and George Whisker (83 Sqn) guarding their chopper

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner**
Trg Maj	**Maj P. K. Gorford**
QM	**Capt (QM) R. Fortune**
Adjt	**Capt D. J. Poole MBE**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) N. G. Brown**

The Regiment has seen a complete change of management recently and with our overseas 15 day Annual Training Camp on 11 June 1988 there is definitely an air of apprehension at RHQ, with reassuring remarks from the 'old hands' of the TA in the form of 'it will be all right on the day', 'we've done it all before and it works' and the quaint old Liverpudlian statement of 'it's all boxed off Sir!' (this is definitely one to beware of).

However, our new CO, **Lt Col David Gardiner** is no newcomer to TA Service having served as the Training Major of 38 Sig Regt (V) so most of the remarks will probably raise fond memories of his past experiences.

Most of the items in this report from the Regiment are of a physical nature which highlights our other activities besides communications.

PRE ANNUAL CAMP RECCE IN GERMANY

On 1 March the PS made a bi-annual trip to Germany to carry out reconnaissance exercises for the forthcoming Annual Training Camp in June.

This photograph of landrovers in the snow is included to show the TA members of the Regiment just what the permanent staff have to do to get their locations in Germany. As can be seen, the weather was not too kind to them. Hopefully, the locations they have chosen will look a lot more inviting by June when Ex Calm Fence is in full flow and the weather has improved a little!

L to R: SSgt Hazel Smith (praying for sunshine on top of the LR), Maj Paul Gorford and WO2 (FofS) Bob Hamilton on a spring recce in Germany

PERMANENT STAFF ADVENTURE TRAINING—LAST OF THE WINTER SKIING

Late in the spring **Maj Paul Gorford**, the Training Major, took a party of enthusiastic skiers up to the Scottish Highlands. They spent an excellent week at Rothiemurchus Lodge on the upper slopes of Aviemore.

The ski party quickly divided into two groups. The first being the old hands led by **Capt Jean Payne** and **LCpl Mike Davis** (ex regular Spec Op) who worked hard to improve their style and control. The second and smaller group had little or no experience on snow. All within a week however, they were able to negotiate the popular family routes on the mountain. The Training Major's prize for the most improved student on the course went to **SSgt (now WO2) (FofS) Bob Hamilton.** On the first day he resembled the abominable snowman at the centre of an avalanche. His descents were a flurry of snow, skis and sticks. By the end of the week the slopes could be declared safe as he could turn and even stop. The experience was enjoyed by all and refreshed the Permanent Staff for the TA training schedules ahead.

The Three Muskaskiers making an impression at Aviemore
L to R: Sgt M. Atkinson, Cpl Vic Drew and LCpl Mike Davis

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
HUYTON WALTON PRISON 'JAIL BREAK'

HQ Sqn entered a team for the 'Walton Prison Jail Break' on 21 May to raise funds for the local Whiston Hospital Burns Unit. The team was led by **SSgt George Whitfield** (NRPS SQMS) and supported by **Cpls Mick Robertson, Frank Hale, Sig Tommy Lane** and **Les Moorcroft.**

The event was organised by the Spastic Society in conjunction with the Mayor of Knowsley Charity Fund.

By kind permission of the CO, the Regiment assisted in the administration of the actual 'Jail Break', providing crowd control and facilities to enable the 35 teams who had entered the 'break', to 'get away' on time.

The object of the event was to travel as far away as possible from Walton Prison in 24 hours using other people's transport/money/goodwill etc.

The HQ Sqn Team reached John O' Groats within 12 hours and continued southwards through Scotland totting up a total mileage of 1,600 miles. From the provisional sponsorship pledges given it would appear that the event will raise £15,000. Well done lads! A sterling performance.

The 'Walton Jail Break' Team consisting of Sig Les Moorcroft, Cpl Frank Hale, Sig Tommy Lane and Cpl Mick Robertson seen making their 'getaway' on a Scammel

Squadron members were, however, brought back to reality the following week by the PRE preparations. HQ Sqn continues to have 100% PRE and the run up to these sees everything steam cleaned and painted. This year even the technicians emerged from their workshops and ERVs. Could this be the first day of the Liverpool summer. Let's hope their efforts gain us a good report. Keep up the good work!

When the PS technicians go to work, there's no stopping them!
L to R: Sgt Ken Myerscough, Cpl Gerry Woodward, Sgt Alan Welch and WO2 (FofS) Bob Hamilton. With a head for heights Sgts Paul Robertson and Phil Newman

NEWS FROM 59 SQUADRON—EDGE LANE LIVERPOOL
EXPERIENCES OF WATERMANSHIP
Report by Maj M. Deighton TD—OC 59 Squadron

The squadron carried out a Watermanship training exercise at Halton Bridging Camp over the weekend 19/20 March.

I'm not sure why they call it watermanship really. First of all they give you a life jacket, tell you about left and right being port and starboard and then they set you to work building rafts.

Members of 59 Sig Sqn (Liverpool) preparing their rafts at Halton Training Camp under the watchful eye of Lt Neil Thomas
L to R: Cpl Michael Hampson, Sig Patrick Fallon, Christopher Murphy, John Keatley, Lt Neil Thomas, Cpl Norman Crowe, Sig Edward Owings, Matthew Stanton, Peter Clucas and Paul Malone

Call this watermanship! It's more like a paddler's nightmare
L to R: Sig Peter Clucas, Carl Wilde, Cpl Robert James, Sig John Keatley, Cpl Eileen Halliday, LCpl Francis Parkinson, Sig Matthew Stanton and Patrick Stanton

They're not really rafts, because rafts float and you shouldn't get your feet weet (I've seen how it works in Davy Crockett and the River Pirates).

Then they get eight of you to climb on board with paddles. This has the instant effect of showing up any flaws in the manufacture because sometimes the oil drums rise above the boards or the ropes come undone. Even if you all get on in one piece it only stays afloat so long as you keep your feet in the water.

With the river in spate everybody has to paddle, no-one gets to bang the drum and water skiing is out of the question.

So you set out across the river in good style then the nice NCO in the safety boat drives past to see how you're getting on, doing about 40 knots with a three foot bow wave. I don't need to tell you what this does to your trousers—but why should the paddles have all the fun.

The grand finale takes place on the bank when the participants inspect one another to ensure that everyone is wet from (at least) the waist downwards. Any deficiencies are made up by throwing offenders in the river. That's watermanship?

UKLF ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988

A team from 80 Sig Sqn (V) has been testing its orienteering skills in several competitions recently. Orienteering is a sport which is both mentally and physically challenging and requires lengthy training to achieve a high standard. The team has made considerable progress since its start nine months ago with the R Signals Orienteering Championships where the male and female teams were second. The next competition was in March where both teams were again runners up in the District Competition for North West District, North East District and Scotland. This allowed them to qualify for the UKLF Championships on 14/15 May 1988. **Lt Andy Payne** won the TA Individual Trophy and his wife, **Capt Jean Payne** of 59 Sig Sqn (V) won the WRAC Individual Trophy and qualified for the UKLF as an individual.

After further training the team looked forward to the UKLF Championships despite the knowledge that it was to be held in the tough forest of Langdale on the North Yorkshire Moors. The standard of competition was high with the best teams from each district competing. The male team, consisting of **Lt Payne, Cpl Steve Kerry, LCpl Paul Murphy** and **Sig Pete Wood**, came thirteenth in the relay on the first day. The WRAC team, consisting of **OCdt Vivienne Myles, Ptes Colette Hill** and **Julie Ross**, was unfortunately disqualified after confusion with a wrongly placed control. On the second day the courses for the Individual Competition were long and technically difficult and team members staggered in muttering 'never again' after several hours in the hot sun. **Capt Payne** gained the only prize for the Regiment with first place in the TA section of the WRAC competition. **OCdt Myles** was fifth WRAC and **Lt Payne** was sixth in the TA men's competition. The team has now recovered from the ordeal and is looking forward to the R Signals Championships 1988. This time we aim to win!

80 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) CHESTER
ENTER THE NORTH WEST DISTRICT SAAM 1988

Saturday morning dawned bright and early as yawning hugely, the OC, **Maj Catriona Millar** TD WRAC, made her way to the Stats tent to pick up all the sticky labels for the firing cards—no label, no firing—had been the grim warning at the briefing the night before! Then came the inevitable half-an-hour nail biting session while we waited in the car park to see if the names that had previously been declared, had actually fallen out of bed that morning and caught the transport leaving the TAC for the Altcar Ranges—a great sigh of relief was heard when the minibus rolled in, with the correct number of heads on board and the correct faces on the heads. Another SAAM had begun.

Both the men's and the women's teams did well during the weekend with the shooting on Sunday made all the more remarkable because of the antics the night before. Saturday evening had been one of the biggest social events of the Squadron calendar—the sad farewell to **Cpl Gary Booth** who is off to tend greener greens on a golf course in the Isle-of-Man. Being an extremely loyal Squadron member we of course felt it our duty to attend the said function and therefore trooped back to Chester at the end of the first day's firing. A very entertaining and enjoyable night was had by us all and by the looks of some people the next morning heads were still reverberating with laughter and music, especially the big bass drum! Still this did not spoil Sunday's shooting and in the section match we managed an all time first—a win with no penalty points incurred! Well done team.

The WRAC also did well for themselves, with the individual pistol event being won by **OCdt Vivienne Myles** who had the cheek to take the cup from the OC who had won it for the previous three years! Does she really hope to gain a commission we ask ourselves! Still at least the honours stayed within the family and the OC didn't mind too much. **Maj Catriona Millar** however, was runner up in the Individual Rifle Match and the WRAC took the Team Pistol and moving target awards.

The highlight of the DSAAM as always was the falling plate, the men being knocked out in one of the preliminary rounds by last year's winners. The WRAC however, with adrenalin flowing, ran down the ranges three times in all, in order to win the Falling Plate Match. Well done girls.

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

SEASON OF FAREWELLS

In May we said farewell to **Capt (now Major) Grace Harrison** our Adjutant, who left us at short notice to go to BAOR to command 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt. She will be missed by her many friends and everyone wishes her good luck for the future and congratulations on her promotion.

At about the same time we said goodbye to our Quartermaster **Capt Jim Allen** who has left for 'civvy street' to become the General Manager of Barker and Stonehouse a leading local furniture company. He was always saying he would like a BMW, so at his farewell the RQMS **WO2 Dave Courtenay** presented him with the latest model. We all wish **Capt Jim Allen** and **Anita** the very best for the future and thank them both for their sterling work.

Capt Jim Allen receiving his 'BMW' from WO2 Courtenay

WELCOME

We welcome **Capt Ron Hails** and **Rita** from the NATO Forward Scatter Stations at Mossy Hill, Shetland and hope they have a most enjoyable tour with the Regiment.

SHOCK

The speedy departure of **Maj Grace Harrison** meant a speedy move for the new Adjutant **Capt Brian Smith** from Catterick who was told 'pack your bags' and report to Middlesbrough. Not far geographically, but he is still recovering from the 'culture shock', not least at having to answer the queries he raised in his previous job as Training Adjutant 11 Sig Regt. Welcome to Brambles Farm.

BAND BUSINESS

The Band of 34 Sig Regt (V) is well into another busy season having performed at many locations throughout the North East and with many more throughout the country still to come.

Two of the most recent events were the Yorkshire TV 'Telethon 88' Appeal and 38 Sig Regt (V) 21st Anniversary.

As part of the 'Telethon 88' Appeal Yorkshire Television invited the Regimental Band with the Duke of Kents Band RRF, to perform the 1812 Overture to accompany a Firework Display. The Band also gave a 20 minute performance for the entertainment of the crowd. All prior arrangements and timings were co-ordinated over the telephone by the Training Major—**Maj David Bannister** and included a 'Barbecue Buffet' afterwards. The sequence of events however, did not entirely follow those agreed with the Training Major. The Band arrived at Castle Howard as requested at 1430 hrs only to be told they could not change until 1800 hrs when the Castle was closed to the public. An unscheduled rehearsal of the '1812' and sound testing for Yorkshire TV was accompanied by a cloudburst. The 20 minute crowd entertainment took place at 1930 instead of 1530 hrs and the Band then found the barbecue buffet had been eaten whilst they were performing—a 'Yorkshire TV' pork pie was substituted. The final event was the '1812' played by the combined bands to accompany the fireworks. Despite the inevitable 'ad hoc' nature of the day, it was a well worthwhile contribution to an event, which to date has raised £2,400,000 for charity in the Yorkshire TV region alone. Rumour has it that the Training Major is now organising a similar event in his back garden—the Band consider that to be a 'pork pie'. Don't ring us Sir—we've moved! The arrangements for the 38 Sig Regt (V) 21st Anniversary in Sheffield were firmer although for a time it appeared to be in vain as the rain lashed down. Fortunately at the very last moment it stopped raining and the ceremony of Playing Retreat could go ahead.

VISIT

During Ex Setting Sail 14-15 May we were delighted that the new Comd 12 Sig Bde **Brig S. G. McK Gordon** visited the Regiment and was able to see us at work in the three main TA Centres at Middlesbrough, Darlington and Leeds.

THE WEDDING OF THE YEAR

Saturday 28 May saw the marriage of two of the Regiment's stalwarts **Cpl Jacqueline Waugh** and **Sgt John Hughes** at the North Ormesby Methodist Church. The reception was held in the TA Centre and all credit is due to **Cpl Christine Warriner** (and her mother) for providing a lovely buffet.

The bride and groom—Cpl Jacqueline Waugh and Sgt John Hughes flanked by LCpl Neil Williams and Cpl Gwen Tipton

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

To say it has been a quiet couple of months would be an understatement but activity has certainly slowed up. However no sooner do I raise my pen to write than somebody mentions Ex Calm Fence 88—oh yes, that's that exercise where we take all the Regiment's vehicles and 400 odd soldiers to BAOR! Aaah . . . a piece of cake! I mean the Regiment's done it all before! This has not prevented the Chief Clerk **SSgt Ron Shelton-Smith** threatening to commit Harakiri as his loading list and passenger lists are altered for the twentieth time or indeed the MTWO **WO1 Ian McSheery** emptying his honey pot of HGV Drivers. But enough! There is no point worring about what might be—it will be! Didn't somebody famous say that!

Amongst other activies there has been a Regimental FTX at Cosford—I wish somebody had mentioned those gliders, Biggles in a Landrover on the take off strip is no joke. Ex Bun Fight they called it—well those communications certainly dropped in quickly when **Maj Paul Renecle** mentioned 'no barbecues until he could talk to everybody'. All the hierarcy spoke about Camp and somebody mentioned injections and vaccinations, **Capt Jo Fathers** took Sunday off to avoid this particular party game! Talking about games **WO2 (QMSI) Bob Evans** made sure that nobody missed the Cup Final by bringing his TV tucked under his arm even if the Regiment did watch it in full NBC kit! Whew it was hot!

Other exciting or otherwise events have included Audit Boards and the least said about it the better! Promotion Exams; congratulations to those who passed and commiserations to those who didn't and finally the Detachment Commanders Course, congratulations to **Cpl Tony Skean** from 48 Sqn as top Det Commander.

No article would be complete without waving the white hankerchief at a few people with a tear in one's eye. Farewell to **Maj Ivan Armstrong** who departs for Western District and **Maj Bob Haysom** who moves to Brigade and finally to **Lt Glen Morrison** who departs for 37 Sig Regt (V); the Regiment wishes them the best of luck for the future. To finish on a happy note congratulations go to **Maj Helen James** on her promotion and on taking command of 58 Sig Sqn in Newcastle and to **2Lt Chris Heaton** on gaining his first pip, may it be the first of many.

48 (CITY OF BIRMINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

On Saturday 30 April the Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs of 48 Sig Sqn (V) dined out **Maj Ivan Armstrong TD**. The photograph shows **Maj Ivan Armstrong** after receiving a farewell gift from **Capt George Cairns**.

1 April saw the arrival of **Maj Derek McConnell** as OC. We also welcomed a newly commissioned **Lt Harry Robinson** and congratulated **2Lt Chris Heaton** on his commission. The inter Squadron wedding between **Sgt Steve Baugh** of 48 and **Sgt Karen Ingle** of 58 Sqn, with many Squadron members as guests, we all send congratulations and best wishes.

For the first time this year the Squadron entered an Indoor Cricket League. The Squad won all 14 league matches and received sponsorship from Phillips Car Audio for kit and clothing for which they are grateful. The team jumped from league 9 to league 3 in the West Midlands Indoor Cricket League, a staggering improvement for a first season. They also won a Knockout Competition. The truimphant team members are: **WO2 Alan Evans, Sgts Steve Baugh, Ron Mosley** (Team Captain), **Cpls Alan Beck, Andy Baugh, Tony Mousley, LCpls Clive Chapman, Steve Daly, Kevin Harris** and **Sig 'Bru' Brudenell**.

89 (WARWICKSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Following the Regiment's successful 21st Anniversary celebrations, 89 Sqn's party on 16 April brought quite a few old and bold out from the woodwork. **Cpl Tony Turner** put the word out around Rugby about the party and former members appeared on the night from all over Britain—some even had TA careers which pre-date **Sgt Hugh Phillips**! With the excellent spread laid on by the social committee and Charlie's bar staff working flat out an excellent time was had by all. Plans are being mooted for another reunion but we won't leave things for 21 years before the next one!

It was with great pride that 89 Sqn heard that another member was to receive the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service. **WO2 (QMSI) Chris Smith** followed in the footsteps of his good friend **Ted Howarth** in gaining the award. The Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, **Mr Charles Ryland-Smith**, came to Rugby to present the award in recognition not only of **Chris**'s service to 89 Sqn but also to the Regimental Recruiting Team and his contribution to West Midlands TAVRA. Together with the CO, **Lt Col David Dobson, Chris**'s family were 'out in force' to offer their congratulatioons. Their military connections are ever increasing. We are sad to be losing both **Chris** and his wife **Anne**, whose contribution to the Squadron far exceeded that normally associated with a TA partner—No doubt they will be coming to Squadron functions for a long time yet.

Congratulations are in order for several members. **Capt Pat Bannigan** on passing his promotion exams; to **Pte Dawn Francis** and **Sig Chris Ryman** on their engagement and to **Cpl Kate Healey** on completing the London Marathon. It started with a dare and not many people believed that **Kate** would actually do it but once she secured a place it was all systems go and proved that not all the Pay Corps are unfit! (Don't stop paying me, I didn't mean it!).

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

All members of the Regiment were pleased for and proud of **WO2 Sidney Lang** during his recent trip to Buckingham Palace to receive his MBE from HM The Queen. **WO2 Lang** joined 43 (Wessex) Sig Regt (TA) in January 1960 after serving for six years as a regular soldier. When the TA was reorganised in 1967 he was transferred to 43 (Wessex) Sig Sqn (V) and became SSM in 1970. He is now the Regimental Recruit Warrant Officer and was awarded the second clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Medal in 1987.

WO2 Sidney Lang after receiving the MBE from HM The Queen

During the last month the Regiment has been busy on the ranges and the results have reflected the high standard of shooting that has prevailed. At the beginning of the month 43 (Wessex) Sig Sqn (V) won the Inter Squadron competition at the Regimental Skill-at-Arms meeting.

Later in the month the Regiment had a successful day once again at the SW Dist Skill at Arms meeting. It was almost a clean sweep and the Regimental teams failed to win or come second in only one event — the B class Rifle — the other matches, the HSF Cup and the Minor Unit Cups we were not eligible to enter. The impressive list of success reads as follows:

Major Unit (Non Infantry) Champions	
Champion Overall Team	**B team—53 Sqn**
March and Shoot Champions	**B team—53 Sqn**
Section Match Champions	**C team—57 Sqn**
SMG Cup Champions	**C team—57 Sqn**
SMG Cup Runners Up	**B team—53 Sqn**
SMG Cup Third	**A team—43/67 Sqn**
Falling Plate Runners Up	**B team—53 Sqn**
Rifle Match Runners Up	**B team—53 Sqn**

Individual honours went to: **Sgt 'Bonzo' Head** (53 Sqn)—Individual Rifle, Pistol Champion, **Cpl Lloyd Thomas** (57 Sqn)—LMG Champion and **Sgt John Burns** (57 Sqn)—Runner Up Individual SMG.

Congratulations to all members of the individual Squadron teams, the results were a just reward for the hard work and practice. Thanks are also due for the training and coaching by **Sgts 'Bonzo' Head, John Burns** and Team Captain **Maj John Reed** our Training Major. In fact the only person to be upset at the continued trophy gathering was **Capt (QM) Dave Longhurst**, who is reported to be worried that his budget for silver cleaning material just cannot be stretched to cope with so many cups!

Cpl Nick Porter of 43 Sqn receives the Inter Squadron Trophy after the Regiment SAAM from the CO, Lt Col Jonathan Cox. Adjt Capt Mick Fogg looks on

Regimental C Team—57 Sqn at the SW DIST SAAM with their 'Trophies'
L to R (Back): Lt Ian Strachan, Cpl Lou Carr and Sig Andrew Mackay
L to R (Front): Cpl Lloyd Thomas and Sgt Burns

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

REGSAAM

16-17 April saw the Regiment once more encamped at Strensall ranges for the annual inter Squadron Skill-at-Arms Meeting. This year the weather was favourable to us and a grand total of 110 shooters were on the ground ably supported by the Regimental and Squadron admin staff. **WO1 Derrick Wilkinson** masterminded the whole event again and as usual everything was well organised and ran most smoothly. The aim of the event is to foster team spirit, identify able shots and increase the competition awareness amongst soldiers. All three aims were well achieved and thanks must go to the organisers, to **Maj Maddocks** and his team of range wardens and to the long suffering butt parties and the range officers without whom the event could not take place. We were pleased to welcome our Honorary Colonel, **Col Alan Hawksworth** who presented the prizes on the Sunday.

RESULTS

	Male	Female
Rifle		
Team	HQ Sqn B	46 Sqn
Best Shot	**WO2 Bennett** HQ	**Pte Kavangh** 46
Young Soldier	**Sig White** 46	**Pte Watters** 64
SMG		
Team	HQ Sqn B	46 Sqn
Best Shot	**Cpl Gill** 87	**Capt Burrows** 46
Young Soldier	**Sig Thwaites** HQ	**Pte Young** 46
Pistrol		
Team	64 Sqn	87 Sqn
Best Shot	**Sgt Rawson** 87	**Cpl Pinder** 93
LMG	HQ Sqn B	46
Section	HQ Sqn B	
Falling Plate	93 Sqn	87 Sqn
Trophies		
Team	HQ Sqn B	46 Sqn
Best Young Male Soldier		**Sig White** 46 Sqn
Best Young Female Soldier		**Pte Watters** 64 Sqn

WO2 (AQMS) Brian Bennett, Captain of the winning HQ Sqn team being congratulated by Col Alan Hawksworth

The 'Cheerful' butt party Pte Trish Clarke, LCpls Sally Burton and Sue Wright

The best young WRAC soldier, Pte Linda Watters receiving her medal from Col Alan Hawksworth

The winning pistol team, SSgts Harry Lomas and Geof Pearson being congratulated by Col Alan Hawksworth

'A brace of Adjutants'. Capt Ray Duffy *(left)* taking over from Capt Dave Hornsby

93 Sqn Cross Country Team (Male)

93 Sqn Cross Country Team (Female)

Capt Alan Whittle and his bride Pamela with the 93 Sqn Guard of Honour

CLINCH CUP

Another shooting success! The 2 Bde .22 shooting competition open to all units within the Brigade was again won by the Regiment. HQ Sqn took first place and by virtue of being a TA unit took the Gill Salver as well and 64 Sqn was second. The best individual shot was **Cfn Thorp** (HQ).

93 SQUADRON

March has been a very busy month for the Squadron.

The highlight of the month was on 27 March when the Squadron had the honour of providing communications along the route for the East Lancashire Scanner Appeal Marathon Walk. This worthwhile charity function was well attended and thus provided the Squadron with an excellent chance of showing off its skills to the public.

On 12 March, the Squadron put in a very strong team to compete in the UK Army Final Cross Country Championship which was held at Chilwell in Nottingham.

The male team comprised: **WO2 Jeff Dolan, Sgt Barry Crewdson, Cpl Geoff Small, Sig Gary Lomas, Peter Lovick** and **Paul Brooke**. The WRAC team comprised: **SSgt Diane Feest, Sgt Heather Kenny, LCpl Helen Wild, Ptes Connie Cowie, Wendy Clarke** and **Dawn Phillips**.

On a cold and wet afternoon, 13 female and 20 male teams took part. Our teams finished seventh and sixteenth respectively. The competition as expected was Olympiad standard with national champions taking part. So all in all a fine achievement.

On 27 February, **Capt Alan Whittle** tied the knot and was married to 'non territorial' **Pamela Thompson**. Officers of the Regiment formed the Guard of Honour.

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

'THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY'

Sig McCandless of 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn (V) was wounded in an IRA gun attack in Londonderry on 7 February 1988. When he was released from hospital, the Squadron invited him to write a short account of the event. His account speaks well for the resilience of all Territorials in the Province and for their fortitude in adversity.

'I've been asked to write an account of my "incident" and, to be honest, I'm not sure where to start! It's not the sort of thing one is asked to do every week—Thank God! I'll try to keep it as brief as possible.

I left work as normal and went to collect my mother from her place of work across the bridge on the other side of Londonderry City. I did this at the same time every day using the same route. I had been told to try to vary my route and times as much as possible but it's the old story—*I never thought it would happen to me!*

As I reached the end of the bridge "the fun" started! I don't know if it was an omen or not but I was listening to "I shot the Sheriff" on the radio! Anyway, I noticed this bloke coming out from behind a parked car with a rifle in his hand. As soon as I saw this all sorts of thoughts went through my head (it wasn't my whole life passing before me—more like "Oh dear—here we go!").

The next thing I saw was the rifle in the gunman's shoulder and pointing at my head! At the same time as my foot rammed the accelerator down, his finger was squeezing the trigger! I just tried to make myself as small as possible and keep my foot hard down on the accelerator. The first few shots hit the car and missed me but as I drove through the ambush I felt a hit in my arm. I was hit in the leg as well although I didn't discover this until I was in hospital.

At this time I just couldn't believe what was happening! I wasn't in shock at this stage—that came later when the ambulance driver cut the leg off my new Wranglers! To cut a short story even shorter, I drove on until I stopped (logical!). I ran into a shop where I had to do first aid on myself. We'd been doing gunshot wounds in the TA Centre the day before (honest!). I thought to myself "God, I'm lucky—I get to do it for real!".

Eventually the ambulance arrived and I just lay back and let the experts do the business. Do I feel like a hero? No! I feel like a figure 11 target! Does it hurt? Only when I laugh—which I'm glad I can still do! I'm just one of the lucky ones who got away!'.

VISIT OF COMMANDER 12 SIGNAL BRIGADE (V)

Over the weekend 3/5 June the Regiment had the pleasure of welcoming our new Brigade Commander, **Brig S. G. M. Gordon** on his first visit to the Unit at Clonaver Park TAC.

A very heavy weekend's schedule started at Belfast International Airport on Friday 3 June where he was met by the CO, **Lt Col Chris Shuker**. After lunch at the CO's residence, he visited TAVRA NI and then off to Larne, Co Antrim to visit our new TAC where he was met by the PSAO, **Maj Ray Kinkead** and **WO2 Eddie Blake**.

After tea, he attended the NI Royal Signals Cocktail Party and Playing of the Retreat at Hillsborough Fort, Hillsborough, Co Down, finishing the day at a function in the Officers' Mess at Clonaver.

Posing for the camera at the Larne TAC
L to R: WO2 Eddie Blake, Commander, CO, Maj Ray Kinkead

On Saturday 4 June we decided to give the Brigadier a nice bit of relaxation and allowed him to play a round of golf in the morning with the Honorary Colonel, **Col J. E. Wilson**. In the afternoon he started work again with a visit to Comd TA NI and Comd Comms NI.

On Sunday 5 June he visited the TAC during a plug-up exercise starting with a brief on the role of the Regiment given by the Trg Maj, **Maj Ian Grant**, 2IC 85 Sqn, **Maj Tom Adams** and OC 85 Sqn, **Maj Gerry Fleming**.

This was followed by a brief on the plug-up exercise given by the Operations Officer, **Maj Harry Squance** and **Maj Tom Adams**; he then toured the TAC visiting 66 and 85 Sqns sites.

Next was a visit to the Queen's University Officers Training Corps Signal Detachment, in the University area of the City, then to Clonaver to meet some of the soldiers in the JRC.

After a buffet lunch with the officers and senior ranks, he departed for the airport accompanied by the CO.

Commander chats to 2Lt Hilary Bustard while Maj Tom Adams *(centre)* and WO1 (RSM) Graham Campbell *(Far Right)* view an impending air attack

Commander smiles, Maj Gerry Fleming smiles, the brief must have gone OK

EXERCISE STRAY SIGNALLER

This was the exercise that no one was to miss: held in April, the exercise that had it all. Originally conceived by the CO, **Lt Col Chris Shuker**, the idea was to have an action packed weekend under bashas with plenty of map reading (by day and by night) as well as Command Task stands on the Sunday morning. Due to our rather difficult security situation in the Province, the only feasible venue was to be the familiar second home of 40 Sig Regt, Castle Kennedy airfield in Scotland. As it turned out, no one had seen Castle Kennedy quite like this before!

The basha area provided an impressive sight at sunrise on the Saturday morning, the volunteers having arrived during darkness the previous night. The brisk Scottish air (ie the cold) together with the well-wrapped figures huddled over hexamine blocks gave the impression of having awoken in the Falklands. To be fair though, the QM had done a marvellous job with the weather indent and although slightly cold, the sun shone brightly over the two days.

After some basic map reading revision and instruction, especially for our attached Army Cadets from Clonaver and Dundonald, we settled down to compo lunch. Risking indigestion, we then set off on **SSgt Garvey**'s 'short map reading course of about three miles'. While I'm sure no one would complain about the length of the walk, it has been suggested that in future years a Regimental half-marathon could usefully be run over the course.

Despite the sore feet however and after a few words from the CO and the RSM, **WO1 Graham Campbell**, the volunteers and the cadets were ready for more. This took the shape of some glorious pyrotechnics and a short night navigation exercise. The culmination of this exercise was a bonfire courtesy of **Maj Dave Baxter**, and a bar courtesy of the PRI Officer, **Maj Harry Squance**. After a few tins of beer, even the cold seemed bearable and the prize-giving to the fastest teams on the night navigation exercise was greatly enjoyed. An account of the ceremony would not be complete without a mention of the winners of the fastest 'all girls' trophy. **2Lt Hilary Bustard** and **OCdt Jean Heron** romped home on this one, to be congratulated by their Team Captain, the CO! Confused? As it turned out, the CO gracefully retired from the evening challenge so that he could help with the manning of the Check Points.

After an early start the next morning, the command tasks and demonstration stands got under way. This proved to be as popular and enjoyable as the previous day's activities: especially the SA80 demo, provided by an instructor from the Cadet Royal Signals detachment at Clonaver. Finishing with a quick debrief of the Troops, the volunteers wearily made their way to the Ferry, leaving the PSIs as the rear party. Despite the blistered feet, aching muscles and wind-burnt faces, all agreed that it was one of the most enjoyable exercises for a long time. In fact, roll on the Squadron Scotland-based exercises in August, especially if the weather's good . . .

RSM about to take off to the hover position, CO frowns

Landrover eats REME fitter

Our Cook—Cpl Dempsey collapses. After sampling his own cooking?

66 SQUADRON

Potted Sports time is here again so its back on with the sports gear, crash hats and shin guards as 85 Sqn, HQ Sqn, Trg Sqn and, of course, 66 Sqn literally battle it out to see who'll win the Baxter Trophy.

66 Sqn won the Winter Potted Sports competition when we dramatically snatched victory, by one point on the final evening of play. **2Lt Hilary Bustard**, the Team Captain, has promised to return the trophy only on the condition that 66 Sqn reclaim it again in July. The 'summer' season got off to a good start—no thanks to the Crab Football referee—**OCdt Andy Woods**, who, although a member of the Squadron, seemed to have a problem in reading his watch and knowing when to blow the whistle! He's been advised to do better next time!

A very successful Corporals' weekend was run by the seniors of the Squadron on the weekend 20-22 May. Thanks to all involved for a most enjoyable weekend, the highlights being the Dinner Night on Saturday evening and the command tasks at Kinnegar on Sunday morning. Well done to **LCpl Roberta Campbell** who volunteered to go first in the Teaching Practice. Don't worry, all those who thought they'd escaped due to lack of time, a Tuesday evening has been set aside especially for the remainder of the presentations!

Congratulations to **Cpl Diane Brennan** and **LCpl Ken McAlpine** on successfully obtaining their HGV Class 3. **Sig Sammy McMurray** is to go on his QTO's course in July so the Squadron should have no trouble in getting those HGV passes now!

Welcome to **Lt Robert Kelly** who has recently joined us. He has taken over B Troop from **Lt David Given**, who has moved to Trg Sqn. We wish them both well in their new jobs.

Congratulations to **Capt Raymond Scott** on his recent promotion and also to **OCdt Jean Heron** on successfully passing her RCB. **Jean** is joining the RAEC and is heading off to Sandhurst, for eight months, in August.

Here's looking forward to a well deserved Summer Standdown, after hopefully winning the Potted Sports and then Ex Grouse Up (or 66 Sqn have fun in Scotland) in August.

FAREWELLS

The officers said goodbye to our LAD Commander, **Capt Andy McFarlane** at a special lunch held on Sunday 8 May. **Andy**, who has served five years with the Regiment, was leaving the TA for domestic reasons and will be greatly missed by his fellow officers.

WELCOMES

A warm welcome into the Officers' Mess to **Capt Joe Long**, ex WO2 FofS (V) and **Capt Dave Doherty** ex WO1 (SVWO).

CO makes a presentation to Capt Andy McFarlane REME (V)

News from Squadrons

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

EXERCISE STANFORD SNIPE

Following the rain in March which kept the Brigade Staff from attending Ex Norfolk Knight the weather improved over the last weekend in May and lulled the staff into believing they would enjoy a sunbaked sojourn to Thetford for Ex Stanford Snipe. Alas they were fooled (and so were we) and the first CPX of the year was spent in wet and windy conditions. Brigade Staff as we are all aware are unforgiving and spent the week taking it out on the Squadron. The headquarters all moved frequently including Charlie Tp who moved more in two days than in the entire time since Bold Guard 86. 'Bravo baiting' became a popular staff sport, the aim being to see how often you could move Bravo Tp in one night without causing a sense of humour failure. There were however compensations as **WO2 (YofS) Chris Newby** is reported to have found. Lamenting his new nickname he said to **SSgt John Hall** 'I've written hundreds of CEIs, issued all these frequencies and do they call me Chris the Communicator . . .!

Roll on Wiltshire Pheasant for the second of our brace of birds before Bold Grouse in September.

TEN TORS

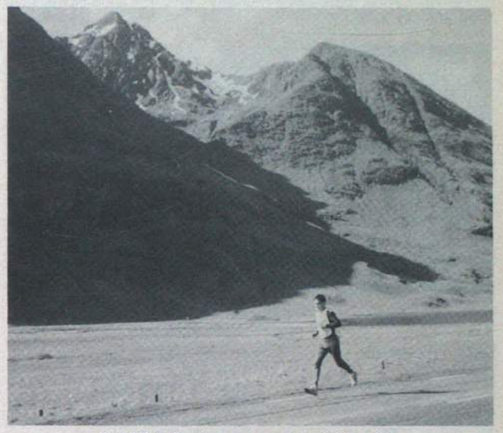
In May, 70 members of the Squadron headed South to sunny Dartmoor tasked with providing communications for the Ten Tors event. Despite initial misgivings about the dubious combination of Dartmoor and a weekend the event provided a chance for some hands-on signalling, with no staff, no cam nets, no webbing and some gorgeous 'scenery'. After the initial meeting of comms and admin personnel the Tor parties deployed onto the moor. The unlucky drove or walked their kit in while the lucky few travelled courtesy of the Royal Navy Sea King. Deployment went better for some than for others, **Cpl Vic Thompson** returned to Okehampton Camp puzzling over why he could not find his way on to Hangingstone Hill.

The fact that the North arrow on his compass pointed roughly to Lands End explained why and it was left to **Capt Mark Castle-Smith** to guide him in. Unfortunately he fell foul of the famous Dartmoor mire and had to be rescued by the Dartmoor Rescue Team, nice one A Troop. Meanwhile others assessed their very different locations. **Cpl Paddy Flanagan** demonstrated his by now well known ability to seek out the cushy option and installed himself in the only 'mixed' rebro on the moor, while **Cpl Norman Portlock** and **Sig 'Tez' Lancey** found themselves guarding an RAF duckpond and ornamental garden, complete with gnomes on Staple Tor. Rumours that **Sig 'Ted' Heath** found true love in Tavistock Medical Centre are being hotly denied—but only by him. At 0430 hrs, an amplified chorus of Chariots of Fire heralded the arrival of Saturday and the mass start. As the comms worked well the roving troubleshooters were reduced to posing and taking in the view—oh and the occasional 'recce' to Princetown. At endex on Sunday the Tor parties returned, comparing suntans. Only a few gloomy faces were noted. **Cpl Bob Dillett** never did get anywhere, **Sig 'Scouse' Clarke** still couldn't believe the Cup Final Result and OC B Troop will return to climb on Dartmoor again!

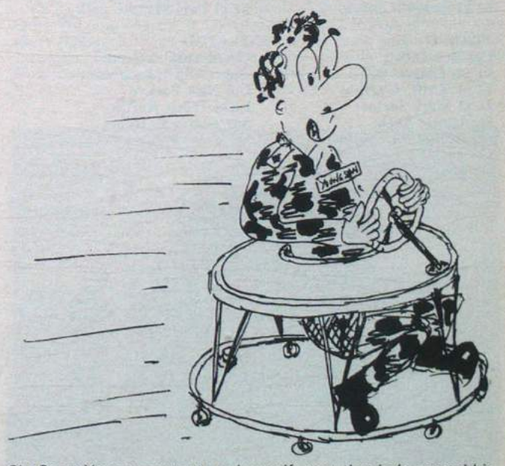
In the beginning—GOC SWDist Maj Gen A. S. Jeapes lends his support—and a little ready cash—to Ben and the team

THE THREE PEAKS

At midnight on 23 May, 24 members of the Squadron crossed the river at Ben Nevis Youth Hostel and started to run up Scotland's highest mountain. It was the start of some 450 miles of running, from Ben Nevis to Pen-Y-Pas, via Britain's highest peaks. The run was the brainchild of **Capt Ray Papworth** who viewed it not only as a cheap way of touring the countryside but also as a way of raising funds for the Ben Manners Appeal. Six year old **Ben** from Nottingham suffers from cerebral palsy and it is hoped that with money raised in the



Sgt Mick Boyle running out of Glen Coe



2Lt Scott Youngson wants to know if, now that he's passed his test, the TCO will issue him with a more respectable form of transport

appeal he will be able to attend the Bowbath Centre in London to receive special treatment, followed by continuing physiotherapy. With some £1,500 in sponsorship, motivating the team was no problem, but would the bodies hold out?

As the team made their way up Ben Nevis morale was high. **SSgt Geoff Graham** was obviously more thrilled to be on the mountain than most as he insisted on walking the team around the summit for several hours. Never mind—the view from the top is apparently stunning—in anything other than a midnight white out. After Ben Nevis the team started the first of the road relay stages to Scafell. With one minibus team always on the move the rest relaxed in the tender care of **SSgt John Hall** and his admin team of cooks, drivers and of course, medics. Scafell was an important mid-point in the run and with it behind them the team pushed on towards Wales, beginning to feel the effect of the miles and the lack of sleep. Whoever remarked that things seemed to be going perfectly according to plan reckoned without the D team. Quite how they managed to lose **Sig Toby Masters** in Warrington remains a mystery. 'No we were not asleep, the mini-bus windows were steamed up—honest'.

With no further mishaps the team ran into Wales and at 1800 hrs on Thursday 26th ran down Snowdon's Pyg Track and into the Pen-Y-Pas car park. They had covered over 450 miles, including Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon, ascending more than 11,000ft en route. Well done to all who took part in what was a good run in a good cause—and as **Sgt Mick Boyle** frequently says 'It's good having your own minibus isn't it'?

Sig 'Scouse' Clarke—'This is my best side'

THE TEAMS

TEAM A	TEAM B
Lt Ivan Hooper	Capt Ray Papworth
Sgt Mick Boyle	SSgt Geoff Graham
Sgt Andy Owen	Cpl Dave James
Sig 'Scouse' Clarke	LCpl 'Bru' Baker
LCpl Sean Vear	LCpl 'Chippy' Carpenter
LCpl 'Blackie' Black	LCpl Paul Mayer

TEAM C	TEAM D
Cpl Bob Dillett	Cpl 'Paddy' Ireland
LCpl 'Dinger' Bell	Cpl 'Ginge' McDermott
LCpl 'Grift' Griffiths	Cpl Nick Parkyn
LCpl Mark Senior	LCpl Teddy Ruffin
Sig Laurie Askin	Sig 'Scarface' Hillier
Sig 'Goodie' Goodson	Sig Toby Masters

In the end—tired and several inches shorter the team finishes on Snowdon. OK lads last one to Cobdens is a cissy!

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

OC	**Maj G. M. S. Shipley**
2IC	**Capt P. B. Knobel**
Ops Offr	**Capt C. D. McGrory**
Admin Offr	**Capt R. A. Hamilton**
Trg Offr	**Capt P. Gillespie**
QM	**Capt J. M. Kirkman**
OC A	**Capt S. R. Workman**
OC B	**Lt A. Smith**
FofS	**WO1 D. P. Jackson**
YofS	**WO2 S. Roden**

SHQ

Since Easter things have changed. **Capt Gillespie** has moved sideways into a new and temporary appointment of Trg Offr prior to JCSC. **Capt Knobel** married **Lt (now Capt) Max Tait**, also of the Corps, and ran from Ops Offr into the vacant 2IC chair. **Capt McGrory** reluctantly shuffled from A Troop to take on the post of Ops Offr. The Yeoman, meanwhile, continues to abuse all and sundry whilst the Foreman prepares his retirement nest-egg. The OC Sqn, although still delving through everyone's in-trays, is trying to adopt a relaxed appearance prior to his handover in July and his move to MOD.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp OC	**2Lt A. Addison (Attached)**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt J. G. Cakebread**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt M. J. Harvey**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt N. J. Barnett (YofS understudy)**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Leyman (Moving to SSgt B Troop)**

Immediately after Ex Red Lanyard **Capt Colin McGrory** left us for the Ops Office. We all wish him well in his new appointment and hope he treats us favourably! **2Lt Andy Addison**, on attachment to the Sqn prior to his TCC, stood in as OC Tp after passing a regular P Coy.

The Troop has been working flat out for the entire period. The exercises have committed everybody possible to parachuting and communicating. Although Ex Red Lanyard was short, it was fast moving and intense. The latter half of Ex Roaring Lion on the other hand concentrated on safety and Umpire comms.

The first phase of Ex Cutting Edge required a deployment by air, parachuting or air-landing. On the jump into Barry Budden, **Cpl Rogers** experienced every 'in-flight' drill possible and is now a very old man. **Sig Bohanna** deserves congratulations on stalking and 'zapping' **Sgt Harvey** (particularly in the use of the river).

Cpl Rogers, Sig Mullins and **Ramsden**, went to Bavaria with 4 PARA (V) to practise FIBUA/DIBUA. Unfortunately the jump was aborted and there was no duty free; they still had a good time.

Welcome and congratulations to **LCpl Dougan**, who passed P Coy. Farewell to **Sgt Leyman**, who has only just rejoined us, but is off to take over as SSgt B Troop, and **Sig Bailey** who is off to 14 Sig Regt. Finally, good luck to **Cpl Craig** who goes with 1 Para to Northern Ireland for a tour.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt J. A. F. Smith**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt G. A. Humble (Moving to Trg Wg)**
RLD1 Sgt	**Sgt R. G. Nixon**
RLD2 Sgt	**Sgt G. K. Cripps**

Recent months have seen the Troop split up for various exercises. Ex Roaring Lion saw most of the Troop deploy to Otterburn and the sunshine of the North East playing a necessary but somewhat mundane role. Somehow some individuals managed to remain at RAF Lyneham, suffering four cooked meals a day, hotel accommodation, and unrelenting challenges by **Cpl Roy Taylor** to play volleyball.

The last Troop outing was care of **Sgt Gaz Cripps** and **LCpl 'Taff' Thomas** to the Swansea coast. The whole Troop, over a four day period, was able to visit. The task was simply to abseil down the cliffs as quickly as possible (the bottom was extremely wet), and climb back up at your own pace. The cold, wet, pounding sea dictated this was as fast as the descent! A good day was had by all.

Welcome to **Sig Hodges, Wood** and **Whitelaw**. However farewell to **LCpl Tim Langley** (off to join the 'Blue Jobs'), **LCpl Fiood** (off to drive taxis) and **Cpl 'Ginge' Undell** to Northern Ireland. (Congratulations on your marriage **Ginge**. There goes our boxing team!)

TM TROOP

OC Tp	**WO1 D. P. Jackson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. S. Black**
IC Radio	**Sgt G. R. Crozier**
IC TE	**Sgt J. A. Lockert**
IC Power	**Cpl S. T. Archer**
IC Line	**LCpl D. L. Hindley**

TM Tp has spent most of the last couple of months competing in one way or another in all of the Squadron's Bde Competition Teams or the Welsh 1000. In the latter event (see more below), a special mention of **Cpl Dave Chapman** who finished 13th as an individual, and together with **Cpl Matt Wigley** and **LCpl Ma Baker**, contributed to an overall 5th place.

Welcome back to **Sgt Jim Black** who returns from his eight week Jungle Warfare Course, bites, bumps and all. **Cpl 'Taff' Wilce** leaves us for his 2-1 upgrading, best of luck and best wishes to the family. Similarly **Sgt Nick Preston** is down in the Falkland Islands, freezing. Its boiling here, enjoy yourself and see you in five months.

LANYARD TROPHY

The Lanyard Trophy is an annual competition sponsored by HQ 2 Sig Bde and organised by 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. It is open to entries from all regular and TA Royal Signals Units within UKLF. The aim of the event is to test leadership, navigational skill and endurance over difficult terrain carrying a minimum of 30lbs weight and a weapon. It is a team event. Each team comprises one Officer, one SNCO and eight soldiers. To be eligible for the team prize eight of the ten men, including either the SNCO or Officer, must finish.

This year's competition was held on Wednesday 21 April in the Brecon Beacons. It was a tough 60km course starting and finishing at Cwm Gwdi Camp and taking in the notorious Pen-Y-Fan twice, at the start and on the last leg. The entry was very good with a total of 15 unit teams and a composite team consisting of **Majs Peter Richards** and **Malcolme Emslie** (MOD geriatrics), several visiting French Officers and those who could not get a place in a unit team.

Capt Ray Papworth leads home 1 Inf Bde

The RSM *(extreme left)* chats to the tired teams

Teams started arriving during the Wednesday afternoon and all looked keen and raring to go. That was until at the Team Captains' Brief, the Competition Controller, **Maj Gordon Shipley**, announced that the start was to be at 0500 hrs the next morning. Worse still because of the drive, reveille was to be at the uncivilised time of 0300 hrs. Later in the night **Col Mike Galloway**, Deputy Commander of HQ 2 Sig Bde arrived and was given the same brief. He kept his sense of humour and composure very well! At 0300 hrs everyone dressed, drew their weapons, had an early morning drive through the Welsh country-side, had breakfast and lined up for the start.

The teams were started at one minute intervals. 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn took up an early lead followed by 5 AB Bde (A) team which was led by **Capt Peter Gillespie**. The other teams were battling it out behind. Most teams were supported by members of their own units, but as the day wore on, it did not seem to matter. As teams came into the check points they all received a warm hand clap and plenty of encouragement from all the supporters. As the hours wore by the teams became well strung out. The 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn team steadily increased its lead over the 5 AB Bde (A) team who never gave up, but could not match the strength, endurance or the navigational skills of the Herford lads. Behind this battle another was being fought between 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and 244 Sig Sqn. In the end the pace took its toll. Although the 2 Div team finished in a quicker time they were ineligible for a team place because only six of the team finished.

Next morning, a lot of sore feet were paraded, by **WO1 (RSM) Jess Harper**, for the prize giving. Before presenting the prizes, **Col Mike Galloway** addressed all the competitors and said how much he had enjoyed the event and how impressed he was with all who took part.

The final results were as follows:-

Position	Team	Time (Hrs Mins)
1.	264 (SAS) Sig Sqn	08.28
2.	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (A)	09.28
3.	244 Sig Sqn	09.50
4.	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (C)	10.55
5.	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (D)	10.57
6.	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (B)	10.58
7.	30 Sig Regt	11.10
8.	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	11.31
9.	249 (AMF) Sig Sqn (B)	12.06
10.	210 Sig Sqn	12.47
11.	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	12.55
12.	School of Signals	13.12
13.	The Composite Team	13.29
14.	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (E)	14.29
15.	249 (AMF) Sig Sqn (A)	15.51
	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt	09.40
	640 Sig Tp	Retired

STOP PRESS: SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP—BARRY BUDDON

Ex Cutting Edge Phase 1 held from 1-7 June was the start of the OC's Training Month. It involved the Para Element jumping into Barry Buddon Training Camp whilst the remainder airlanded at RAF Leuchars. The training covered a variety of military skills ranging from map reading and NBC to night ambushes and bayonet fighting.

Weapon Skills
Pistol Training the 'Tex Harper' way (alias WO1 (RSM) Harper)

Close Quarter Battle Range with SA80

Boat Handling
Dry training

NBC Training
Individual and group skills

Embarked en route for a live firing night ambush

Vehicle decontamination

THE 17TH WELSH 1,000M PEAKS RACE

The Squadron entered a team in this event held on 4 June which is primarily a fell race held annually in Snowdonia. The course is some 25 miles in length and starts on the seaside beach of Aber. It proceeds cross country over mountainous terrain and finishes on the summit of Snowdon.

Some 65 military teams registered this year. The teams consist of five men, running as individuals, with the fastest three runners to count. The mass start was at 0730 hrs. The Squadron's runners were:-

Cpl Dave Chapman	13th
Cpl 'Taff' Rowlands	21st
LCpl Ma Baker	23rd

The race was won by the Gurkhas from the JNCOs Tactical Wing, Brecon, with the Squadron finishing in a creditable fifth overall.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Davies**
2IC	**Capt Frazer Grant**
QM	**Capt (QM) Charles Homewood**
AO	**Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Dave Raleigh**
OC N Tp	**Capt Julian Bunce**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andy Scott**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Dave Simpson**
MTWO	**WO1 Mick Hewitt RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dougie Brisco**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Dennis Prince**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
AQMS	**WO2 (AQMS) Paul Windsor REME**
CC	**WO2 (ORQMS) John Manley, Staffords**

The Squadron has spent much time away from barracks recently. At the end of April we endured the rigours of the BBGT at Catterick, two weeks later we were in Germany on Ex Mainbrace and at the moment we are on Simex in Salisbury! In June we move to this year's main exercise—Summer Sales and hopefully after that some quiet may reign.

SHQ

This month sees the departure of **SSgt Sandy Campbell** to Saudi Arabia on his SANGCOM posting. We would like to thank him for all his hard work during his tour. We would also like to congratulate him on his forthcoming promotion and wish him and his wife and family all the best for the future.

We welcome in **WO2 Manley** from the Staffords and **Cpl Spurr** from 233 Sqn—the former is ex Infantry—the later ex Marines.

Our most recent arrival is **WO1 Mick Hewitt RCT** who replaces **WO1 Graham Jesty** as MTWO, welcome **Mick**! Goodbye **Graham** and thanks a lot for your sterling work arranging our movements.

QM DEPARTMENT

PERSONALITIES

QM	**Capt Charlie Homewood**
RQMS	**WO2 Tom Ferry**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Phil Jones**

The Troop isn't really sure what handle **SSgt Phil Jones** should have, we call him our Troop Staff Sergeant, he calls himself the 'Tech Accountant' others call him . . .? April ended on a high note for the QM's department seeing the Brigade Battle Group Trainer (N) handed over in one piece with no losses, well done to all Q Troop involved. The department then made ready for Mainbrace and deployed to BAOR on 8 May to enjoy 'NBC high' on mid summer afternoons, no sun tans in 19 Bde. The highlight on Mainbrace for Echelon was the **RQMS Tom Ferry** being poached by the OC to act as RSM. Echelon then in the RQ's absence turned into the sleepy little hollow that we all know.

Mainbrace over we are now ticking-over waiting to deploy on Simex 88, another little admin task for the Quartermasters department to get its teeth into—then on to Summer Sales.

Congratulations to **LCpl Mullen** on his recent well earned promotion.

N TROOP

Much has happened since the Easter break. Ex Panthers Charge II proved to be a good shake out with a few key personalities absent. **Cpl Frank Massingham** has departed for the Falklands leaving an initially rather bemused SAS(MC) crew to manage on their own. **Sig Darren Miller** is not too lonely, though other members of the Troop have taken to shouting 'Dusty where's my pencil'? The radio relay crew of **Sig Andy Snelle** and **Steve Sandeman** also managed well without the guiding hand of **Cpl Pete Morgan**.

BBGT at Catterick followed closely for the lucky few who spent some hours looking at simulated radios and rather more hours on pan bash. A brief highlight was a spot of FIBUA Training where **Cpl Greg Terry** discovered that thunderflashes really will blow the door off a broom cupboard.

Cpl Greg Terry enjoying yet another Stand To

Radio Relay Crew of Sig Andy Snelle and Steve Sandeman taking another late breakfast

The old favourite Ex Mainbrace came next. **Cpl Ian Ormerod** arrived to take over the radio village: welcome, and the fortunate **LCpl Sean Fairfield** departed to the envious job of OC's driver. Good luck!

To men as skilled as these, Mainbrace passed smoothly with few problems other than helping our Oscar Tp. **Sig Steve Sandeman** went over to explain Radio Relay and **Cpl Jim Parker** was busy ferrying over stores which wouldn't fit into trucks full of beds and fridges. **LCpl Dave O'Shea** returned from his Det Comd Course and went straight on to exercise. Congratulations on achieving best student, and good luck also in married life.

Sgt Bob Drysdale has emerged from the depths of the Tech Workshops to take over the Troop in the absence of **SSgt Dave Parry** on his 'Jeff Wright' Course at Pirbright. **Capt Julian Bunce** promptly vanished into the 2IC Office to allow him to learn to cope on his own.

Many thanks to **Cpl Greg Terry** and his co-opted committee for organising an excellent barbecue on 11 June, carefully slipped in between exercises. Absent were **Sig Kev Cousins** and **Hall**, enjoying a pleasant holiday in Cyprus as guests of 19 Fd Amb. Preparations for Simex are well under way and Summer Sales looms on the horizon. But hard working soldiers are happy ones.

O TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Dave Raleigh**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Stu Read**
Mt Cpl	**Cpl George Sheppard**
Tp Acting L/Cpl	**LCpl Glen Drew**

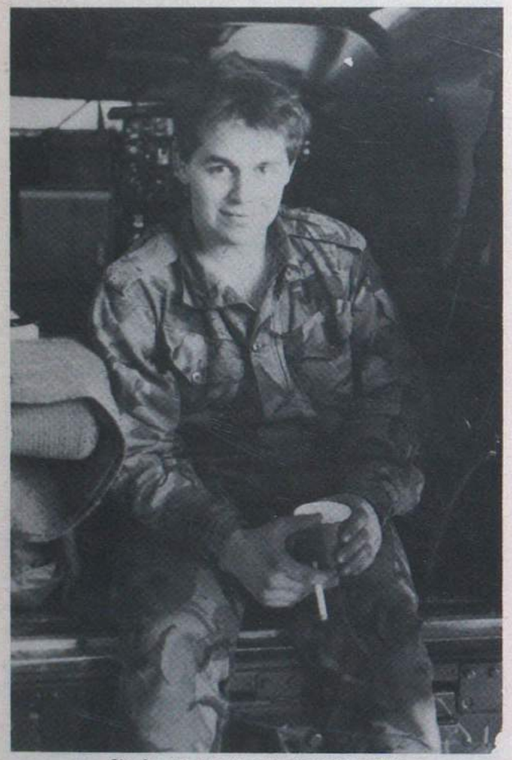
The Troop deployed as the main stay for Ex Mainbrace and performed extremely well with a host of new personalities getting thrown in at the deep end. **Cpl Georg Sheppard** and **LCpl Kev Waters** had an easy couple of days after the Commander had killed them off. **LCpl Mark Bentley** had to scrounge a lift home, whilst **Sig 'Paddy' Booth** had a great time trying to communicate without whips.

The harbour team of **Sgt Stu Read, LCpl Mark Banting, Cpl 'Taff' Lewis, LCpl 'Geordie' Dixon** and **Al Garrard** produced some sterling work (when they worked).

The Troop is now working hard preparing for Ex Summer Sales whilst producing support for Simex.

The Troop congratulates **Cpl George Sheppard** on his marriage to **Mary**, and **LCpl 'Jock' Smith** on his promotion.

The Troop welcomes **Cpls Vince Murphy, Geoff Murray, Dixie Dean, LCpls Eddie Eddleston, Flipper Watters** and **Sig Chris Glover** and says farewell to **Cpl Woz Blakey**.



Sig Gordon Lloyd, a hard working RTg

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj B. Robinson**
2IC	**Capt C. S. O'Nians WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 A. W. Williams**
CC and Scribe	**Sgt A. P. Gillard**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome the following, and their families to the Squadron and wish them a pleasant stay: **Sgts Hobson REME, Shields, Rogers, Simpson, McDonald, Cpls Choules, Kent, Lee, Steele, LCpl Fletcher, Openshaw, Sig Radcliffe, Lock, Powell** and sadly have to bid farewell and good luck to: **SSgt Forsyth, Sgts Hair, Coppinger, Pickersgill, Cpls Cargill, Ballantyne, LCpls Rowden, Tulleth, Sig Ward, Freeman** to civilian life: **Sgt Dale, Cpls Rutter REME, Hillan, Sig Wilkinson** and **Chapman-Yates**.

MEDAL PRESENTATION

Brig The Hon N. C. L. Vivian, Comd (BR) Comm Zone visited the Squadron on 21 March. During this short visit, he was briefed on the role of the Squadron and presented three LS&GC medals at a ceremony in the Sergeants' Mess. The recipients were: **Sgts K. C. Hughes, R. J. Collin REME** and **WO2 B. B. A. Vas RAPC**.

After the presentations **Brig Vivian** met many Mess members. During his speech he emphasised the prestige attached to the award for Long Service and Good Conduct, and the importance of the part played by wives in Army life. Our congratulations go to the recipients on their achievement—and especially to **Lesley, Wendy** and **Tessy** (their wives!).

Sgt Hughes receiving his LS&GC from Comd (BR) Comm Zone

Sgt Collin REME receiving his LS&GC from Comd (BR) Comm Zone

WO2 Vas RAPC receiving his LS&GC from Comd (BR) Comm Zone

MINOR UNIT CHAMPIONS

The RCZ Orienteering Championships were held on 24/25 March on the Harkortberg near Wetter. It proved a successful two day's for the Squadron, emerging as winners of the Minor Units Championship with a team comprising **Maj G. Thomas, Maj B. Robinson, SSgt (FofS) N. Johnson** and **Sgt V. Grimsley**. The individual successes were **Maj Thomas** winning M40 and **Maj Robinson** winning M45. Not to be outdone, our only female competitor **Capt C. S. O'Nians** ran as a member of 29 Coy WRAC Team to win the BAOR WRAC Unit Championships which were run concurrently.

RCZ Orienteering Champions, *(L to R)* Maj Graham Thomas (AFCENT), Maj Brian Robinson OC 227 Sig Sqn (Team Captain), not present SSgt (FofS) Johnson—Sgt Grimsley

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

The Squadron is now nearing the end of the 'silly season'. The massed bands of the Household Division have stopped marching up and down the parade square at Chelsea Barracks and there isn't a Drill Sergeant in sight! The last few months have been quite eventful, with Battle Camp, a State Visit to Windsor, Trooping the Colour and Beating Retreat to name but a few. It is now (apart from a State Visit in July!) time to dig out the sun cream and try to find some sun.

BATTLE CAMP
DS
Capt John Isherwood
Capt Patrick Windsor Brown
WO2 (SSM) Alan Culton
SSgt Kate Woodcock
Sgt 'Jack' Dodds
Cpl 'Taff' Bryant
Cpl 'Brummie' Seaton
Cpl Rachel O'Pray (PTI)

In spite of the SSM indenting for typical Battle Camp weather (ie rain, snow, frost, hurricanes etc . . .) well in advance, much to everyone's disappointment, the weather for the two week period was mild and sunny!

Prior to venturing out on to the training area at Crowborough, the first evening was spent 'in camp' experiencing one of **Cpl O'Pray's** potted sports competitions. **Sgt Dodds** pursuaded the DS, always 'game for a laugh', to enter a team. He, not wanting to deprive others of their moment of glory, gave up his place in the team to the SSM. A very wise move, though not viewed in quite the same light by the SSM. The potted sports session turned out to be more like arduous physical training, resulting in many creaking joints and aching limbs.

The fun and games continued for the rest of camp, with many exciting activities ranging from section battle drills to first aid and night navigation.

'Now where did I put my hair restoring cream?' or is LCpl Fred Kirkpatrick trying to find some more cam cream!

Cpl Stan Harvey tucks into a tin of corn dog

Cpl 'Mitch' Salmon (or members of the DS for that matter) are unlikely to forget **Cpl Salmon's** expertise when faced with a map, compass and a dark night. They tried to ascertain her location over the radio and were given the answer, 'I'm in England somewhere . . . I think?'. She was actually only about 500m from where she had started!

The NBC stand was given full marks for reality by a member of the WRAC (who shall remain nameless) who thought that the small heath fire (caused by a thunder flash) was all part of the scenario!

As the Squadron was out over St Valentine's Day, a number of anonymous cards found their way to various members of the Squadron. The SSM is still carrying out handwriting checks to find out who wrote all those nice things about him and his pace stick! Generally, a good time was had by all, and a couple of new catch phrases arose, as follows:

'I'm not entirely convinced I'm enjoying this'—overheard from **Sgt Dodds** whilst up to his knees in mud.

'The lights on but there's no one home'—possibly originating from **Cpl Salmon's** activities on the night navigation, but found to be applicable to many other individuals for the rest of camp and for some weeks afterwards.

A ROYAL ENCOUNTER (OR TWO!)

Although various members of the Squadron involved in the State Ceremonial events frequently catch a glimpse of members of the Royal family, they rarely have occasion to meet them. This was the case for one **Sig Sheldon Woodfine**, until the State Visit to Windsor just after Easter.

Sig Woodfine was detailed as the Radio Op for the King's Tp gun position. Unlike State Visits to Buckingham Palace, where the salute takes place in Green Park, for visits to Windsor the salute is fired in the private grounds of Windsor Castle. For the Radio Tp comms rehearsal, **Sig Woodfine** (dressed in smart civilian clothes and armed with a radio) was allowed into the private grounds of Windsor Castle in order to test comms. Whilst lurking in the bushes, he was espied by a lady in a rain coat and headscarf who was obviously curious as to what he was up to. It was too late to run away or try to hide, and it was only as the lady came within recognisable distance that he realised he was about to have a private audience with **Her Majesty The Queen**! After a short chat, Her Majesty was obviously happy that **Sig Woodfine** was a legitimate 'prowler' and departed, leaving a rather shell shocked Signalman behind!

A few days later, on the morning of the State Visit, **Sig Woodfine** returned to the same location, this time in his smartest uniform and accompanied by the 2IC, **Capt Therese Crook**. As they drove up to the location they wondered why a Royal Navy officer was there, and didn't he look a bit like **Prince Andrew**, . . . but it couldn't possibly be him as he would have to be at the Castle waiting to meet the King of Norway (wouldn't he?). Sure enough, it was The Duke of York and having a bit of time to spare and wondering what role these non King's Tp people were playing, he wandered over for a chat. **Sig Woodfine** amazed at meeting another member of the Royal family left most of the talking to the 2IC.

INTER TROOP VOLLEYBALL

This was to be the last in the series of Inter Troop Competitions engineered by **Cpl Rachel O'Pray** and one of her more serious and straightforward!

Winners of the Inter-Troop Volleyball
Back Row (L to R): Capt John Isherwood, LCpl Tony Young, Cpl Stu Hamilton and Sgt Bob Dodds
Front Row (L to R); Pte Sue Webb, LCpl Nicki Cole, SSgt Kate Woodcock and Pte Lindsey Davidson

The six teams participating (two from each Troop) were split into two leagues: League 1: Oscar (A), Tels/SHQ (B), Radio/MT (B) and League 2: Oscar (B), Tels/SHQ (A), Radio/MT (A).

After some interesting matches, the winners of League 1, Oscar (A) (who had had quite a struggle) were in the final with the winners of League 2, Tels/SHQ (A). With the easier route Tels/SHQ (A) were hot favourites to win. But to everyone's amazement Oscar (B) (obviously playing their joker, or six of them!) achieved a resounding victory. Well done Oscar Tp, you're the only ones other than Tels/SHQ to win an inter Troop competition!

PHAB SPONSORED WALK/PUSH—HYDE PARK

On Bank Holiday Monday 2 May, a small group from Radio Tp was involved in the annual Physically Handicapped and Able Bodies society sponsored walk/push at Hyde Park.

The team, headed by **Sgt Steve Matthews**, and ably assisted by **Cpl Brummie Seaton, LCpls Fred Kirkpatrick, Andy Walker, Sig Sheldon, Woodfine, Mark Benson** and **'Crow' Webster**, provided a control net for the event to cater for any emergencies.

Fortunately the weather was good and the food and refreshments were plentiful, and as it was a large scale event drawing PHAB members from all over the country, a number of celebrities were also there.

Radio Tp in action at the PHAB event or are they just trying to stop Cpl Seaton running off with a young lady? Sgt Matthews, Sig Woodfine, LCpl Kirkpatrick, Sig Webster, Benson and Cpl Seaton pose with celebrities: David Prowse 'The Green Cross Man', a member of the 'Song and Dance' cast and Dr Singh from Eastenders

Sig Benson and Woodfine with one young member of PHAB

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS/CONGRATULATORY

A fond farewell and best wishes to the many who have escaped from Chelsea Barracks and moved on to pastures new. Good luck to the old OC Radio Tp, **Capt Patrick** and **Diana Windsor Brown** to JDSC, to the Supvr A, **Mr Bert Hounsome**—have a happy retirement, and to: **Cpl Ian Rushmer** recently departed to 14 Sig Regt, **Cpl Tam Byrne** to 8 Sig Regt (T1 Course), **Cpl Mal** and **Jane Howard** to 1 Inf Bde, **Cpl Rachel O'Pray** to a Remedial PT Training Course, **Cpl 'Geordie' Colquhoun** to civvy street, **LCpls Julie Penny** to 16 Sig Regt, **Julie Baker** to 9 Sig Regt and **'Suts'** and **'Flossie' Sutton** to 21 Sig Regt, **Sig Paul Haughton** to 13 Sig Regt, **Ptes Paula Machin** to 240 Sig Sqn, **Lisa Hook** and **Jane Cox** to 16 Sig Regt, **Lorraine Averill** to 14 Fd Regt RA on promotion to Lance Corporal, **Deanna Barker** to 33 Fd Regt RE and **LCpl 'Kal' Kalmar, Sig 'Daz' Curtis, Jason Ballard, Ptes Karen Herbert** and **Karly Menear** to civvy street.

In their place we welcome the new OC Radio Tp, **Capt Mike Dunn** and the new Supvr A, **Mr Jim Linskey, Sgt Sandy Brown, Cpls Ian Henshall, Rob Dunseith, Kev Salisbury, Tracy Hunt, Les** and **Christine Donno** and **Colin** and **Lynn Pullen, LCpls Alyson Parker, Sue Kilbride, Ken** and **Sabine Scoins** and **Steve Gordon, Sig Roy Brunt, Graham Parkinson** and **Brian Campbell** and **Ptes Linda Hatton, Sharon** and **Rick Allmark, Helen Russell, Katheryn Spruce** and **Glynis Jordan**.

A few happy events have recently occurred in the Squadron. Congratulations to: **Cpl Ian Rushmer** and your new bride **Jacqueline** and **Pte Lindsay Ridley** (now **Davidson**) on your marriage to **Mark**, to **Sgt Kev Moir** and **Mrs Moir** on the birth of your daugher **Emma** and **Cpl Andy Martin** and **Mrs Martin** on the birth of your daughter **Stephanie**. Finally, congratulations to **Grant McNee** and **Sheldon Woodfine** on your promotion to Lance Corporal.

241 Sig Sqn
Donnington

Our ARU this year was carried out by **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE**, Comd 2 Sig Bde. We tested him as thoroughly as we could, booking him into a hotel which lacked hot water when he arrived and which lacked hot water again when he got up. We were also able to show him a nine acre bonfire site, to prove things do happen in Donnington sometimes.

SSM John Mountcastle laid on a range day for the Brigadier so well that he has been asked to run the Corps Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Bulford; there's a lesson somewhere.

The Squadron small bore shooting team, **Maj Colin French, Maj Bob Baker, WO2 (SSM) John Mountcastle** and **Mr Ross Kennedy** came a creditable fourth place out of 14 in the 2 Sig Bde Clinch Cup. **Pte Clair Boswell** successfully qualified as a Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Medallist and also achieved a Pool Bronze on a course at our excellent swimming pool in COD Donnington.

We are please to announce the forthcoming marriage of **Cpl 'Hank' Cowlan** to **Cpl Gill Day**, both of this Squadron and we wish them every happiness in the future.

Sgt John Graham showing Brig Alexander how warlike life is in 241!

COMMS TROOP

There have been a lot of comings and goings lately. **Ptes Donna Mansfield** and **Amanda Thomas** have gone to civilian life and **Pte Michelle Shepherd** was posted to Hong Kong. **Pte Mandy Eardley** is off on a six months detachment to Gibraltar, lucky girl. We welcome **Pte Anita Spink** from Hong Kong.

Cpl Gill Day has just passed her Sergeant's course at Guildford and **Pte Martine Fowler** gained a Bronze Badge on the ski course at Aviemore.

Just now we're all off on a weekend walking around the cliff edges of South Wales, we'll let you know if anyone falls, or gets pushed over.

CORPS GOODS

Goods which were sold at RHQ will now be sold from the Museum. Orders/enquiries should be addressed to:
Corps Enterprises, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH, or by Telephone (0258) 52581 Ext 2413

242 Sig Sqn
Edinburgh

THE ('INTASUN') SIGNAL SQUADRON
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TOUR

Capt Hindmarsh, Cpls Oldham, Carthy, Young, LCpls Crossley, Carthy and **Pte Hurst.**

What do you get if you cross a TA infantry battalion, two RAF Hercules and Seven Scottish signallers in search of some fun? The answer is a two week adventure training trip to sunny Gibraltar and Southern Spain.

It was so simple really: 2/52 Lowland Bn was sending out a composite company on Ex Marble Tor K and had a few spare places going: the Gibraltar Adventure Training Centre (GATC) was lying idle every morning because of exercise commitments. Two phone calls later we were heading off to the sun as adopted 'Jocks' on Ex Marble Tor.

Well nearly . . .

In true RAF tradition our reporting time in Edinburgh was at least seven hours before we were due to fly and our newly acquired TA friends seemed to have a great penchant for muster parades, briefings and more muster parades. The once willing volunteers were beginning to lack enthusiasm for anything much by the time they reached Glasgow airport at 0530 hrs on Saturday 12 March and spied the two Hercules sitting on the tarmac in the wet, grey dawn. The real torture was yet to begin as the great grey beasts lurched into the sky and we began five gruelling hours of bone-shaking vibration, bottom-numbing seats and crossed legs.

But it was all worth it. In the early afternoon we landed in Gibraltar and stumbled out into the warm, Mediterranean spring feeling somewhat overdressed in combat suits and jumpers. We were accommodated with our Lowland friends; **Cpls Ged Carthy** and **Willie Young** in South Barracks and the girls in Buena Vista Barracks, home of the Gibraltar Regiment. The food was excellent and though the accommodation was a bit basic and crowded we were not complaining.

The first two days were spent acclimatising and finding our way around, over, under, inside and outside the Rock before being given the run of the GATC every morning from Tuesday onwards. Of the many activities on offer windsurfing and rock-climbing proved to be the most popular and we became quite proficient in the two weeks as well as getting a good sun tan (and jelly fish stings) into the bargain. We also had a go at caving and off-shore sailing but drew the line at canoeing because of the state of the water in the harbour where capsize drills were carried out.

Our afternoons were kept busy with a range of visits and tours. We explored the endless tunnels hewn out of the rock over the centuries and were amazed to find actual barracks, hospitals and even reservoirs built inside the rock itself. A visit to the Lower St Michael's caves revealed a fascinating world of limestone formations, huge natural caverns and an underground lake in which **LCpl Caroline Crossley** took an unexpected swim!

An interesting afternoon was spent on board HMS *Challenger*, a sea-bed operations vessel where we decided that, having seen the conditions in which divers work, deep-sea diving was not going to feature on our programme. Unfortunately the trip in a Lynx helicopter which was to have been one of the highlights of our visit had to be cancelled when the Lynx developed gearbox problems and made an emergency landing just as we were being briefed for our flight.

In need of a rest after our first week of hectic training and hard walking up and down the rock (transport was always by Shanks's pony) we hired an amenity vehicle from Fortress HQ and set off to explore the Atlantic coast of Spain for the weekend, keeping well away from the dubious attractions of Torremolinos and the Costa del Sol. We stayed in a small friendly hotel in a coastal resort at the exorbitant price of £7 per head bed and breakfast and had great fun trying out our few words of Spanish and totally confusing the local population. We visited the old town of Cadiz and spent some considerable time in the prone position observing the effects of sunlight on the human skin and studying the wildlife surrounding a beach towel. All this and LOA!

Returning to Gibraltar we continued our adventure training in the mornings and on the Tuesday night took part in 2/52 Lowland's night exercise. 'Exercise?' I hear you cry. Well we had to prove to the TA just how versatile we regulars can be. For one night **Capt Hindmarsh** became Her Excellency the Governor of Manana, kidnapped by a group of belligerent terrorists with such unlikely names as Mad Dog Manuel **(Cpl Young)**, Maria Constatini **(LCpl Carthy)** and Big Loll **(Cpl Oldham)**. It was a really tough exercise. We were encamped in a squatters village complete with bar and campfire and told to make as much noise as possible: the aim was that the Jocks would set up OPs to watch us and eventually come in to rescue the Governor. It must be said that some of the group made very convincing terrorists!

The highlight of the two weeks come on the final Thursday when we abandoned GATC to try our skills at horse riding in Zahara, again on the Altantic coast of Spain. There we discovered the delights of Spanish saddles, padded with sheepskin for extra comfort, and cowboy's horses which lower themselves like camels to enable the rider to mount easily. Once used to the rather unpredictable behaviour and independent nature of our not-so-trusty steeds we rode off across the plains, over the hills and galloped along deserted, golden beaches. Following **Capt Hindmarsh**'s excellent example almost everyone fell off at some stage, thankfully without serious injury, other than to personal pride. In the early evening we returned saddle-sore, bruised, sun-burned but proclaiming that it had been the most adventurous of our adventure training and an experience not to be missed. We were treated to a scrumptious Spanish meal in a local restaurant and finally returned to Gibraltar in a state of total exhaustion just before midnight. Even windsurfing was painful the next day.

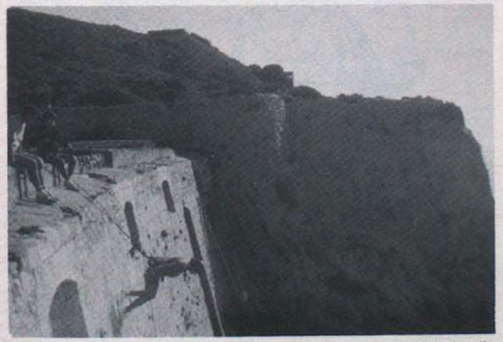
At last it was time to prepare for the dreaded return flight, buying duty frees and adding the final touches to the sun tan. Although by now everyone was looking forward to home comforts and a decent cup of tea we were sad to leave Gibraltar and all our friends at GATC. We owe a lot of people a big thank-you, both in Gibraltar and particularly in 2/52 Lowland for really making us feel a part of the company. We all enjoyed the trip and learned some new skills which will hopefully be of benefit to the rest of the Squadron.

Skirting the underground lake on a 2in ledge, Lower St Michael's caves, Gibraltar

The rock of Gibraltar from Algeciras, Spain

Trekking in the hot sun near Zahara, Spain

LCpl Anne Carthy proves that you can lead a horse to water, but . . .



LCpl Anne Carthy fearlessly demonstrates the forward abseil

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

EXERCISE BRAVO HURDLE
Report by Capt I. K. Bucklow

'Go forth and practise leadership, command and control away from Brize Norton' were the aims of Ex Bravo Hurdle. Bravo Tp therefore proceeded into the wilderness of East Yorkshire to the promising land of Pickering. The exercise was to carry out tasks away from the normal Squadron environment and duties, which actually meant hard work for the National Trust.

The offer of 38 of Bravo Tp's 60 bodies for 2 days proved too good a chance for the warden **(Mrs Jenny Dicker)** to turn down. It gave the National Trust the opportunities to get jobs done which others regarded as too difficult or dirty for them.

The hardy men of Bravo Tp set about building drainage ditches, dismantling stone walls and path building in the Bridestones area. The work was co-ordinated by **Cpl 'Tyrant' Whitworth** with the troop being split into small groups under the control of **Cpls Latham, Brothwood, Regan, Wardle** and others. The Indians were provided by such as **Sig Tye, Cox, Ronnie MacDonald** and **Brown.**

On the Road
Must have a word with the MT Sgt about getting landrovers

Sig Moxon on Resettlement

Strenuous efforts were made to find a campsite in the immediate vicinity of Bridestones, but in vain and so the Signal Training Centre (STC), half mile from the centre of Scarborough, had to be used. This gave the troop an opportunity to meet the local natives, exchange views (often through a translator) and present various gifts at local watering holes. Although Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 April were quiet Thursday night saw the discovery of the lost tribes and resulted in an evening which may be described as 'memorable'.

At STC, certain admin duties had to be carried out and it was convenient to be able to call on the advanced combat skills of the Radio Operators within the troop. Overall, the administration was carried out by the stores wizard, **Sgt 'Jed' Crosby**. The catering was provided by **Sgt 'Cooky' Inglis**.

The highlight came when the Rydale Mercury reported on our activities.

The aims of the exercise were achieved in an environment of 'work hard, play hard'. The whole week was rounded off with a visit to the Rugby League Cup Final on the Saturday.

Sig 'Tye' Cox, Taylor, Cpl Latham and LCpl Duncan 'on job creation'

ECHO TROOP (V)
PERSONALITIES

OC	**2Lt K. Snaith WRAC**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt King**
PSI	**Sgt Duddell**
Typist	**Mrs G. T. White**

Echo Tp (V) 244 Sig Sqn (AS) based at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff is a TA troop attached as part of a regular unit. In the past training year some members of the troop have deployed to BAOR, Belize, Cyprus and Norway and the not so exotic training areas of Catterick, Otterburn and, of course, Wales.

POSTINGS

We say 'Goodbye' to **Lt S. Swithenbank** as Troop Comd, but he still remains on the strength as OC 622 TACP (FAC). 'Hello' to **2Lt K. Snaith WRAC** who took command of E Troop in June. The troop and regular army bade farewell to PSI **Sgt Tudor Butler**. After 22 years service he is becoming civilianised (many would say he already is) but the army is not losing all his talents, rumour has it that he is joining the TA. We also lose the troop clerk **Sgt Billy Davies** who leaves after having 'outlived' at least six PSI's and three different troop roles.

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes and a few weekends with the TA away from the sleepless nights at home for the ex OC and his wife, **Jane**, on the birth of a baby boy.

Congratulations to our new clerk **LCpl Dave Prew** on his marriage to **Helen** in March. Also well done to **Sig Grant Thomas** on gaining best recruit on his Catterick Course, and **LCpl John Jenkins** for the Troop award for best soldier 1987/88.

EXERCISES

Detachments took part in Ex Polar Dawn at Catterick in March, Ex Highland Cardinal 3 in May and Ex Wiltshire Pheasant in June/July. Ex Regal Burst in July, provided the highlight of the year with aircraft and artillery live firing in Scotland. The troop exercise in May proved a great chance for members to fire a variety of weapons on the range, during day and night phases, ending with best shot being jointly awarded to **Cpl Ray Elliott** and **Sig Steve Good**. The exercise culminated in a comms phase where some of the strangest looking antennae appeared to work the best.

Sad news for all of us was the death of **Sig Ian Kitchker** in April. In the short time he was with us he made many friends and served us well.

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

TECH AND LINE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

FofS	**WO2 Bob Downie**
TE SNCO	**Sgt Derek Bright**
RR SNCO	**Sgt Graeme Hossell**
Line SNCO	**Sgt Stan Holden**
Systems Controller	**Sgt John Phillips**

EXERCISE APHRODITES AMBLE

Since we last wrote we have been on Ex Aphrodites Amble which, for those who haven't been before, is a three day 'amble' around Cyprus (or that's what they told us anyway).

Team one, consisting of **Cpls Steven Barclay, Charbonneau, LCpl Tommo Thomas, Sig John Bower, Budgie Falconer** and **Pte Desrochers**, put up a good fight on the first phase but only managed to finish in fourth place, being beaten by the stronger Radio Tp and Commcen teams.

The second phase saw the Troop team maintaining the tradition of always winning at least one phase of the exercise, despite their lack of map readers on the 'stroll' around the countryside. They were **Cpls H. Glean, Charlie Hanson, LCpl Wayne Pinhorn, Sig Jimmy Watson** and **Jasper Marritt**.

The DS for the exercise took part in most of the activities on Day 3 with **Sgt Derek Bright** learning how to stand on a windsurfer, the only thing that was missing was the wind. On the second half the DS all had a go at the orienteering course set by the FofS, this saw **Sgt Derek Bright** amazing everyone by setting the fastest time of the whole competition completing the 8km course in 1 hr 12 mins.

CABLE TV

With the weather improving, the faults on the Cable TV system are slowly disappearing, along with the chance of gaining a suntan from working outside the air conditioned workshops.

Our two members of Radio Tp, **Sig Geordie Lunn** and **Budgie Falconer** have been kept very busy over the last few weeks with the arrival of lots of new radios needing their initial inspection before being sent out to various locations around Cyprus.

HELLO/GOODBYE

We say goodbye and thanks to **LCpl Andy Luckman** for all the hard work and hello to his replacement **Cpl Charlie Hanson**; good luck on your tour.

Goodbye to **Cpl Steve Barclay** and **LCpl Wayne Pinhorn** and welcome back to **Cpls Hugh Shotton** and **Daz Bailey**.

Finally we say another farewell to **Sig John Bower**, after his second tour, to **LCpl Thomas**, off to Catterick for his B1 and **Sig Jimmy Watson** back to Dhekelia. Thanks for your company and your good work . . . for those who think that the UN tour in Cyprus is for six months, you will be glad to hear that **Sgt Roy Jarvis** has (UN) willingly extended for a further three months to become the only Roulement Radio Relay Technician.

COMMCEN
SPORTING SCENE

Last month's Troop sporting event was in the form of a treasure hunt. That's what the organisers called it, but bascially it turned out to be orienteering in disguise, with questions to each checkpoint. A testing 8km course was set and all Troop personnel managed to complete the course even though most were baffled by the questions. Medals were presented to the winners who were:

Gold	**Sig Pete Wolferstan**
Silver	**LCpl Bob Churchward**
Bronze	**Sig Martin Ashworth**

PS:Yes it is true that **WO2 (YofS) Nik Hammett** did come tenth out of an entry of 16. He must be getting old.

Commcen Tp Treasure Hunt

Standing: Sig Gaz Lewis, Paul Westcott, Kev Ashfield, LCpl Bob Churchward and Sig Dave Pipe Wolferstan

Sitting: Sig Craig Bird, Andrew Hartshorne, Cpl Alf Marlow, Sig Bedborough, Dave Owen, Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell, Sig Martin Ashworth, and WO2 Nik Hammett (notice the gap)
Absent due to taking the photo: LCpl Max Boyce
Absent due to organising staff: Sgt Dave Hartshorne and Cpl Steve Everett

GONE AT LAST

Due to a cutback on UN stores issues and the fact that 30 Sig Regt is getting desperately short of operators, we have just witnessed the demise of our long serving day Corporal. **Cpl Steven Everett** has finally returned to his parent unit after spending a year with the Squadron. He no doubt left with quite a few memories of his tour and also quite a few stories of all the work he did here. All I can say is take all the stories with a pinch of salt. Thanks **Steve**, also you will be glad to know that the day office is now back in order after your departure.

SQUADRON QUIZ NIGHT

The recent Squadron Quiz Night was a huge success for Commcen Tp. Our intrepid team of experts, **Sgt Dave Hartshorne, Cpls Steve Everett, 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **'Taff' Mustoe**, proudly battled their way through the prelminary rounds to meet the techs in the final. The final was more of an individual effort as opposed to the earlier rounds that were team answers, but eventually the Troop team came out on top and the trophy now stands proudly in the Commcen.

ARRIVALS

We would like to welcome **Cpl Gaz Towlson** and **Sig Seth Armstrong** (again).

DEPARTURES

We say goodbye to **Cpl Steve Everett** and **Sig (now LCpl) Kev Ashfield**.

RADIO TROOP
A BRIEF TO NEW ARRIVALS IN THE UN
by Sig Slater

If any unsuspecting Radio Ops/RTgs have volunteered to come to sunny Nicosia on a six month fun packed tour, I will try to enlighten them on various factors they may encounter when they first arrive.

On landing at Akrotiri they will spot other UN volunteers following anyone that looks as if they know where they are going and looking extremely unsure of who to talk to. When contact has been made with the transport, they can now sit back and relax and enjoy a very scenic trip to Nicosia, white knuckles are the order of the day as the driver swerves and skids to avoid on-coming 'kamikaze' drivers.

When they finally reach the UNPA they will be brought to what is called Jubilee 'housing' estate, where they will sign for the Penthouse suite. On arrival at the suite they will come across an old custom of kiss the replacement. When all the unpacking has been completed they can then go to the Bistro where traditional Greek fayre is served by ever smiling 'Chefs'.

For the evening entertainment they will be introduced to the local watering hole fondly named the Wire Inn, where they can sample some of the Islands famous brews, namely Keo, Carlsberg and Specials.

In the morning, you will be taken down to the Troop offices and introduced to all the members of the Troop, and then 'Uncle' **Brian Lauder** and 'Aunty **Jo Longphee** will give you a brief on the role of the Troop and some info about the Island of Venus.

You can then start to be UN-ified, which involves getting a bright blue beret roughly the size of a dustbin lid and a UN brassard on which the elastic has an uncanny knack of snapping seconds before a parade, much to the SSM's delight.

You will then be rushed to SHQ (fondly known as the head shed) and forced to part with six pounds for an extremely attractive Sqn PT Vest and handed a sheaf of arrival proformas . . . You are now fully UN-ified . . . Remember . . . in the service of peace . . .

Afternote: If the SSM asks about his Comms Board, deny everything.

Have a good tour!

POOL AND DARTS COMPETITION

The Squadron Darts and Pool competition was keenly fought, coming to a climax on the final night. The winner of the darts was **LCpl Graham** and the runner up was **LCpl Boyce**, both of Commcen (we now know how they spend their night shifts). The highest score went to **SSgt Brian Lauder**.

The winners and the runners up, were yet again Commcen, **LCpl Graham** and **Sig Bird** (now we know what's in the back room).

The presentation was made by **Mr Archimedes**, President of the British Cyprus Friendship Society and the prizes were donated by **Mr Chris Michael**.

LCpl Graham receives the winning trophy

SPORTINGS NOTES

CUNNING RUNNING

March saw the end of a busy Orienteering season for the Squadron orienteers who featured in UNFICYP Competition and the SBA league as well as the All Island Championships.

CYPRUS ORIENTEERING LEAGUE

The Cyprus 'O' League included teams from all Military Units in Cyprus and consisted of some 15 events spread as far afield as Dhekelia, Episkopi, Akrotiri and of course Nicosia.

The events were all great fun but some were worthy of a special mention.

The night event held in Dhekelia was a non-scoring event in which the Team Captain **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie** discovered that his compass wasn't luminous after all; and **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** had a ripping time going through the barbed wire enclosure, losing most of his genuine Adidas tracksuit on the way.

A Norwegian event, also held in Dhekelia, was very interesting. In this style of orienteering a competitor is only told the location of the next control point. When he or she gets there, a map shows the location of the next one, and so on round the course.

The All Island Championships, also held in Dhekelia was a gruelling 13km, 25km control point course. **Sgt Graeme Hossell** headed the team in tenth position, with the FofS finishing fourth Veteran. **Sgt Stan Holden**, featuring in the team for the first time found the course quite testing but nevertheless enjoyed it. **WO2 (YofS) Nick Hammett**, also in the team for the first time, had to go straight to Ay Nik for a game of Hockey immediately following his two and a half hour run! Hence the grey hair.

The Team throughout the League was: **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie, Sgts Graeme Hossell, Dave Hartshorne** and **Cpl Steve Barclay**, with special guest appearances from: **WO2 (YofS) Nik Hammett, Sgt Stan Holden, LCpl Andy Luckman** and **Sig Martin Ashworth**.

The overall team position at the close of the League was seventh, beating both 259 and 262 Sig Sqns. Well done to 9 Sig Regt in winning both League and Championship.

Individual positions were: **Sgt Graeme Hossell** seventeeth, **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie** nineteenth and **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** twenty-fifth.

The Squadron entered the UNFICYP Support Regiment Competition as favourites to retain the team and individual prizes. Unfortuately it was a bad day for orienteers in general and over a runners course, the team slumped to fifth with our first individual, the FofS, finishing twelfth.

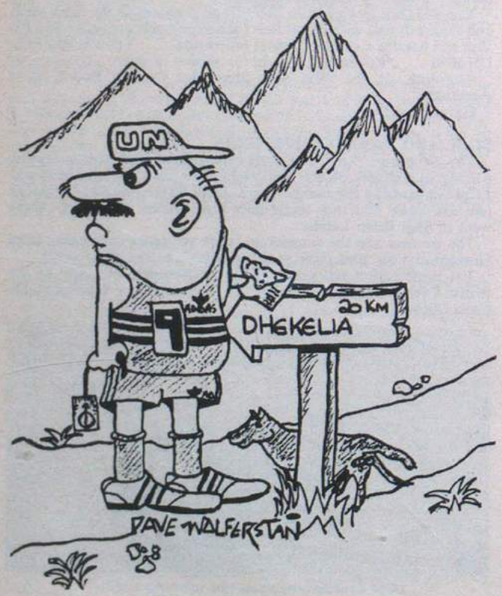
A week later, however, over a course set by the Danish Contingent, the Support Regiment Team Trials were held. **Sgt Graeme Hossell** won, showing a clean pair of heels to the young pretenders, and the old and bold Brigade provided the fastest times over a real orienteering course.

As a result, the Regimental Team for the UNFICYP championships contained three runners from the Signal Squadron. Over a long hard course on a very hot day, Support Regt finished second to a controversial Sector 2 (Britcon) Team.

Team positions—Sector 2 (Britcon), Support Regt, Dancon, Scout Car Sqn, UN MP Coy, Auscon.

Individual placings were: **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie**—second Individual—first Veteran, **Sgt Graeme Hossell**—sixth and **WO2 (YofS) Hammett**—nineth.

So, all in all, a good season for the Squadron Orienteers and a good indication of things to come in the 1988/89 season.



ATHLETICS 1988

The Squadron came a very creditable second in the UN Support Regiment Athletics Meet held in the heat of the Makarios Stadium in Nicosia. They were narrowly beaten into second place by just two points despite being ahead of their nearest rivals at the end of the 4 × 100m relay by over 20m!

Top L to R: Cpls H. Glean (Capt), Charlie Hanson, Paul Meaney, 'Coco' Kekkonen (Both Canadian Signals) and Gus Turrell
Bottom L to R: LCpls Max Boyce, Wayne Pinhorn, Sig Wayne Bramwell and Owen

Cpl Gus Turrell captured on film. One of the few moments he moved during the competition

The 'Crowd' holding their breath and gripping their seats Non-Combatants—Sgt Stan Holden, SSgts Brian Lauder and (SQMS) Barry Thorp

INTER TROOP FOOTBALL
FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Squadron held a five-a-side football competition organised by **Sgt Stan Holden**. Teams from all departments took part on a league basis with the winners of the two leagues going into the final. The football was always fast and furious during the qualifying league. Commcen Tp beat Line Tp 3—2 and Radio Tp B 6—0 to reach the final against Radio Tp A.

The final was a close fought battle through to the end, but eventually Commcen Tp was victorious 3—1. Creditable performances were put in by all involved: **Sgt Dave Hartshorne, Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell, LCpl Max Boyce, Sig Craig Bird, John Bedborough** and **Gas Lewis.**

SQUADRON FOOTBALL TEAM

The 254 football team has had a good season so far. Although we aren't in a league we have played numerous friendlies.

We have lost only one game out of seven since the arrival of **LCpls Max Boyce, Wayne Pinhorn, Sig Craig Bird, 'Taff' Berrill, Gas Lewis** and no forgetting **WO2 Butch Maycock**, Sir, Yes Sir.

We lost 3—1 against the RE Det which was a poor effort and a poor game, being out-played.

We drew against Wksps one all and the UNMP'a 3—3. The UNMP game was hard and dirty, where the opposition was missing only their batons and helmets. Still it was a friendly after match drink where we beat them 4—1 in pool. I think we may be let off a few speeding fines in the future. **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** was an unexpected man of the match (my Shift Sup).

After a loss and a draw we sorely needed a morale booster. This came in the form of a friendly against the High Commission/Four Oaks. With the owner of the Four Oaks Pub, **Barry**, in goal, more used to pulling pints than catching footballs, we had a glorious 10—0 win. Morale was boosted.

The game against the Ordnance was a mellow 2—0 win where nothing exciting happened so I won't tell you about it.

60 Sqn RCT was a hard fought 1—0 win which saw a beautiful **Wayne Pinhorn** goal to lead us to victory.

Now to the 262 Sig Sqn game. This was our only away venue. **Sig Lee Turner** took over from **Sgt Mick Denison** in goal as he had injured his thumb, we weren't pushed at any time during the game as **Sig 'Taff' Berrill** proved by sticking away five goals by half time to the cries of 'your round Taffy'. The game slowed down to only one more goal in the second half with more chatting to old acquaintances than football being played.

We are now sadly missing **Sig Lee Turner** and **Andy Major** who have been posted back to 30 Sig Regt after finishing their tour. Good luck and keep your boots clean.

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON AND RAF COMBINE FOR PARADE

Activity was feverish in the corridors of the living-in accommodation as members of the Squadron hurriedly searched for Best Boots and No 1 Dress Hats. The reason was that 24 men and 2 officers were required for a guard of honour.

Of course, plenty of square bashing and polishing preceded the event under the caring eye of **Drill Sgt Hartley** of 2 Bn Coldstream Guards; and memories were jogged about some of the finer drill movements.

Driven on by pride and the occasional reminder from the Drill Sergeant, things soon came together. Uniforms were tailored to hide the effects of too many kebabs and the drill was really looking quite good. The only stumbling block left was to rehearse with the other half of the guard which was being provided by 34 Sqn RAF Regt.

The big day arrived and, chests swelled with pride, the combined forces of 259 Sig Sqn and 34 Sqn RAF Regt paraded as a guard of honour to bid farewell to **Air Vice-Marshal K. W. Hayr CB CBE AFC**.

Capt Peter Cain accompanies Air Vice-Marshal K. W. Hayr

MOTOR CYCLE COURSE

As a result of the all-island Motor Cycle Safety Campaign **Sgt Steve Owen** decided to hold a short notice course to ensure that the Squadron bikers were up to the mark. He quickly appointed **LCpls Gaz Cuss** and **'Taff' Roberts** to find two cost effective and road worthy bikes in the space of two hours (not easy in Cyprus!) After one hour travelling around Limassol and a half an hour haggling with the local dealers, they were very successful.

On returing to Episkopi the MT Cpl **Cpl Welch**, showed considerable interest until he realised that it wasn't a task for 'Mr Clean'.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Baz Bazzard** who was the only Tele Mech to pass; **LCpls Gaz Cuss** and **'Taff' Roberts** (Ex Demo Team) who passed with ease; **Sig Marriott** and **LCpl 'Fish' Fisher** who passed their Part 1.

AIRFIELD TROOP

Firstly we welcome **Cpl 'Jock' Stenhouse** and **Sig 'Mick' Knowles**. May they enjoy working with the RAF as much as we all do.

Congratulations to **Sgt Neil McKie** on passing his Foreman's Board, he may now be seen running up hill an down dale in preparation for his Staffies in July. Rumours that he's cutting down on his kebabs are so far unconfirmed.

Congratulations also to **Cpl 'Bob' Leyland** and **Sgt 'Ako' Atkinson** on their promotions.

Airfield Tp once again proved its true form by winning the Inter-Troop Athletics convincingly. **Cpl 'Mick' Senior** (the oldest swinger in town) appeared confused after completing the 5,000m Dash however, 12½ rounds and not a beer in sight, took its toll. All event winners are now on PT every morning, preparing for the forthcoming Minor Units Competition. As training starts at 0630 hrs to avoid the heat, the question is will anybody be awake to win anything on the day.

The second wiping of the board was in the Annual NESAM Shoot where **Sig Kenny McQueen** and **Dicky Dickerson** were runners up in the LMG Shoot—beating several Infantry Teams in the process. Well done lads!

EPISKOPI TROOP CABLE GANG

Working in conjunction with the Cyprus Telephone Authority from March onwards the Troop started the laying of 6km of 40 pair non-armoured cable. At the same time we also put in another 6km of 100 pair for essential maintenance and 3km of mini ducting for a new project. Realising the size of the task in hand the TOT and FofS allowed us a whole free week of uninterrupted work.

Cpl Jeff Wood being in charge of the project immediately took a week off, leaving **Cpl Paul Gorman** and his crew with the work. We were ably assisted in our work by the TOT, (old chinscratcher) Troop SNCOs and various shiny technicians who thought that they had been attacked by blister agent. Thanks to **Sue Campbell** for the daily refreshments.

Episkopi Tp pulling cable

JNCO CADRE

The annual three day JNCO Cadre Course this year saw JNCOs of 262 Sig Sqn combine with JNCOs and Signalmen of 259 Sig Sqn.

On a bright and very warm morning—the chosen few—found themselves on the 'drill square' practising squad control under the watchful eye of **SSgt Roy Habergham** or receiving and giving Patrol Orders/Ambush Orders under the supervision of **SSgt Andy Fullwood.**

Other aspects of military training taught and tested included weapon teaching practice, marksmanship principles, section battle drills and a Command Task element. The course content was such that much 'burning of midnight oil' had to be done to prepare orders and learn the drill manual.

After three days, the instructors were summoned by the Sqn 2IC **Capt Cain** to give reports on each student—when a top student was chosen. **LCpl Giles** (262) and **LCpl Cook** (259) were mentioned in despatches but **Sig Billy Wareham** came through as overall top student.

Back Row L to R: Sig Bradley, Cpl Sparks, LCpl Thomas, Sig Crowe, LCpl Jackson, Cpls Berley and Rae

Front Row L to R: LCpls Cook, Fisher, Giles, Sig Wareham, LCpl Roberts, Sig Lawlor, Cain, LCpls Reith, Cuss and Sig Luckman

Seated: Sgt Owen, SSgts Fullwood, Allen, Capt Cain, SSgt Habergham, Sgt Higgins and Sig Marriott

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

AN EDITORIAL

It's that time, and as usual both Maint and Comms Tp have managed to provide more news for our publication and your consumption. We will take this opportunity to quash the rumour that Maint Tp spend all its time thinking up new witty remarks and reinforce the fact it does work sometimes (except **Sgt Russ Dale**, of course, because he's kept busy trying to get a job as a script writer!).

Anyway, a quick word of congrats to all the Squadron Marathon/Half Marathon runners who successfully competed in this year's Cyprus Services Marathon. There are too many to mention individually, but well done. It was a hot day for it!

COMMS TROOP

Generally, in the past few months, the Troop has been extremely active, beginning with a CFT to everyone's delight on a Saturday morning at 0630 followed four days later with a BFT.

After this energetic start, the operators settled down to doing a bit of HF communicating, on Ex Cygnet Globe, which proved to be as successful as last year, maintaining our usual high standard of approximately 88% comms with 30 Sig Regt in Blandford.

Meanwhile back at the ranch the MT side of the Troop began preparing the Squadron's vehicles for the much talked about and dreaded PRE!

Determined to keep the same standard as last year, the Troop worked literally non stop, day in, day out, even late into the afternoons, which is seldom heard of in Cyprus, much to **Sig 'Milesy' Sweeney**'s dismay, as it was interrupting his sunbathing routine!

We have had a few arrivals and departures in the Troop. Firstly we would like to congratulate **Sig Steve** and **Carol Appleton** on the birth of their daughter **Rochelle.**

We sadly say our goodbyes to **Lt Jan McKee** off to 21 Sig Regt, **Sgt Anne McNally** to 251 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Mike Millsopp** to 602 Sig Tp. We hope they will have a great time in their respective new units.

We welcome their replacements **2Lt Karen Osterburg, Sgt Val Holsgrove** and **LCpl Dave 'Mac' McInnes**. We know they will enjoy their tour with 262 Sig Sqn.

RADIO RELAY
THE POWER HOUSE PECKING ORDER

Sgt Al Dixon	(Head Honcho)
Sgt Russ Dale	(Trivia Master)
Sgt Dave Thomas	(Rally Driver)
Sgt Nick Shaw	(Antiques Expert)
Sgt 'Chuck' Robertson	(NCO I/C Tropo)
Cpl Lee Thompson	(Barman)
Cpl George Stebbings	(Car Dealer Headache)

Radio Relay workshops has just seen its largest turn over to date. From a manning level of ten we had a four week period with only four Techs in the workshops.

Then in the Tradition of the 7th Cavalry, three brave young men were posted in within two weeks. So, we are glad to welcome **Cpl George Stebbings** and **Sgt Dixon** and his wife **Chris** and family and last but not least **Sgt 'Chuck' Robertson** and his wife **Andree** and family.

Actually it was hello and see you next week as **Sgt Robertson** managed to wangle a gliding course within two weeks of arrival. Tell the rest of us how you managed that one!

The workshop again surpassed itself in the driving competition with a worthy sixth place this year. There were eight teams originally but two dropped out the day before so we're claiming a moral victory over them.

To our relief we had a rare sighting of a nearly extinct species of wild life last week. Yes, you've guessed it, our Foreman of Signals **WO2 Pete White** popped his head in to say hello. Our leader **Capt Colin Bachelor** was also relieved to see him!

We have said goodbye to **Sgt Pete Fitzmaurice** and his wife **Mandy** all the way to Training Wing 9 Sig Regt (he even needed a map for that). Sorry **Pete**, no disturbance allowance either.

Also our best wishes go to **Sgt Pete Lowe** who is off to 240 Sig Sqn, stopping off on the way to get married to a charming ex DTg from the Commcen, **Carrie Evans**. We wish you both well.

NATO Satellite Ground Terminal, F17
Balado Bridge

ROCCHAN (BALADO BRIDGE)

In response to the often asked questions of: What is it? Where is it? Who is this SGT Balado Bridge? we thought it was time to put ourselves on *The Wire* 'Map'.

We are a NATO Satellite Ground Terminal (SGT), based at Balado Bridge near Kinross in Scotland, and are part of the Regional Operations Centre Channel (ROCCHAN) organisation. Our basic role in life is to provide communication bearers for NICS (the NATO Integrated Communication System).

Better known in the local area as 'the Golf Ball', the radome first saw light of day in 1982, to be followed two years later by the bricks and mortar of the main buildings It was during this time that the first military personnel were posted in, and for the next year they worked alongside the builders and Ford Aerospace contractors, who installed the main equipments. By the end of 1985 the Station went 'live' taking its first operational circuits, and, from early this year, we are now also involved in maritime communications.

The Station is manned with a complement of twenty Royal Signals personnel, four civilian staff and six MOD policemen, all under the command of **Maj Trevor Kay.**

The technical side of life is looked after by **WO2 (FofS) Tony Brend** the Station Chief Technician, who is assisted by **SSgts Tim Scragg, John Middleton** and **John Hobley** (who retires later this year, after 22 years with The Corps). The remaining 13 Radio Relay technicians are employed on a shift basis, with our two Powermen and the Storeman providing support on a daily basis.

Our NATO civilian engineer is **Mr Bill Nottingham** who, despite the name, and some Scottish heritage hails from Canada. Having previously served with the Royal Canadian Signals, he now provides the ultimate in expertise and continuity of experience.

As the Station has 'grown' there have been many visits during the commissioning phase, including that of **The Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO**. We were also pleased to welcome last year, the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, who presented three LS&GCs during his visit.

The SOinC with LS&GC Recipients
L to R: Sgts Ray and Moorecroft and family, SOinC, and WO2 (FofS) and Mrs Brend

Because our location is so distant from any major unit we run our own social club, and have had several games nights against RAF Pritreavie, 242 Sig Sqn and the police (who are still looking for a game they can beat us at). The most recent highlight was our first formal dinner night. This was arranged to dine out **Sgt Bob Pratten** on completion of 22 years service with the Corps.

Again, owing to our numbers and location, organised sport can be a problem, although with a combination of HQ Scotland and some local teams, our footballers and rugby players do get a chance to practise their skills. However it is felt that the increase in the sale of golf clubs, and applications to the local club, is in no small measure due to the 'encouragement' of **SSgt Tim Scragg**, 80% of the Station has now been round a golf course at least once. We manage to keep ourselves fit with some in-house PT, fun-runs? and BFTs, and are now trying to keep up with one of our number, **Mrs Jean Smith**, who has just completed the London Marathon.

Back Row: LCpl Sanders-Crook, Cpls Goowin, Wade, LCpl Booth, Cpls Cowan, Dixon and Mann
Centre Row: Cpl Bristow, Sgts Donelan, Thompson, Thomas, Prince and Buchan
Front Row: Sgt Smart, WO2 (FofS) Brend, Maj Kay, SSgt Scragg and Sgt Pratten
Absent: SSgt Hobley, Sgt Lond and Cpl Ballin

Finally we would like to say goodbye and wish all the best for the future to **Sgt** and **Mrs Pratten, Cpl** and **Mrs Bristow, Cpl** and **Mrs Dixon** and **Cpl Ballin**, and we welcome **SSgt** and **Mrs Middleton, Sgt** and **Mrs Clark, Sgt Hutchinson, Cpl** and **Mrs Weaver** and **Cpl** and **Mrs McClurg**.

The 'Sharp End'

608 Sig Tp (SSIT)
BFPO 40

From PWSST (Fwd) Lippstadt

Since our last appearance in *The Wire* there have been several changes within PWSST (Fwd), not least the fact that we have all be posted to 608 Sig Tp, Viersen! Despite this move to tidy up all the Royal Signals 'odds and ends' around BAOR, and despite OC 608 Sig Tp's bid for a complete takeover, the team remains independent, indestructible and indespensable! The OC, **Maj Andrew Symmons** is now having to watch his step a little as presumably **Capt Mike Stevenson** will be writing his CR, whilst **Capt Julia Abbott** the 2IC, is bravely coping with the deluge of work thrust upon her by the OC.

Congratulations to **WO2 Terry Waites** on his recent promotion; he has rewarded himself with a two week holiday in Cyprus and is at present sunning himself on a beach. Congratulations also to **Sgt Scott Steven** who has passed the Foreman of Signals selection board. **SSgt (YofS) Sam McElreavey** was heard offering his commiserations and saying he hoped he'd do better next time!

Meanwhile **Cpl 'Scouse' Horabin** has come back from detachment to 49 Fd Regt RA in Northern Ireland, and his return was welcomed, in particular, by all of us who have been undertaking the driving details in his absence. **Sgt Max Steele** keeps telling us about the 18½lbs he has lost since he started cycling to work, but we in turn point out that it's bound to reappear in the not too distant future. **SSgt Pete Preen** is having nightmares and tantrums over WAVELL spares and was last seen in his store mumbling incoherently.

WO1 (FofS) Chas Dowie and **WO1 (ASM) Alex Campbell** (partners in crime) have something up their sleeves; we are on the track. We ought not to jump to conclusions but needless to say the seeds of curiosity have been sown. At the time of writing **Sgt Phil Newman** and **SSgt 'Art Tels' Percy Thrower** are away but will no doubt be itching to get back to work and to Ex High Pass!

In August PWSST (Fwd) will be moving offices again, this time within the same barracks but into a near derelict Nissen hut. Meanwhile the show goes on and the team awaits the outcome of SLMB with bated breath! After the usual string of Winter Exercises Flying Falcon and Crested Eagle, and latterly the Divisional CPXs, we now have a relatively quiet few months ahead, once of course Ex High Pass and Summer Sales are behind us. After the hectic few months leading up to SLMB, with modifications and the usual maintenance programme, the team will be grateful for the temporary respite!

NOTES FROM TP HQ VIERSON

VISIT BY COMMANDER 4 SIGNAL GROUP

Col R. D. K. Thompson OBE visited the unit recently in his capacity as Comd 4 Sig Gp. After a call on the new CO of Ordnance Services Viersen, **Lt Col B. Mobley RAOC**, the Commander spent an hour with members of the Troop. Having visited our Emblem detachment, before its demise, the Colonel had a good knowledge of what goes on in the Troop and this visit gave him a chance to renew some old acquaintances. The final part of the programme was a challenge squash match versus the OC. The return game is expected shortly!

EXERCISE DECI-MILE

Members of the Troop recently took part in Ex Deci-Mile which was a 1,000km bike ride from Cagliari in Sardinia to Garmisch Partenkirchen in FRG. The idea was the brain child of the OC **Capt Mike Stevenson** and after seven months of planning the expedition was a resounding success. Our thanks must go to our sponsors Velo Schauff of Remagen (for the bikes), Mars Ltd (for the energy) and Corps, Units and individuals (for the cash). The following is a tongue in the cheek account of what turned out to be a physically demanding two weeks.

'THOUGHTS' BY LCPL JOHN MAHON ON EXERCISE DECI-MILE

On 4 January 1988, **Capt Mike Stevenson** said to me, '**LCpl Mahon** on yer bike'. 'Sorry Sir', I said. 'On your bike young man', said he, 'as today's the start of 608 Sig Tp training for Ex Deci-Mile'.

We had been kindly donated the bikes and equipment by Velo Schauff of Remagen. From March till the end of April we trained as much as we could. Then the big day arrived! Dateline 3 May 1988. (Happy Birthday to me) and I think I'm mad. We flew from RAF Wildenrath to RAF Deci (Sardinia), bundled on to the back of a Bedford with our kit, and then on to Capitano where we pitched our tents and sampled a couple of glasses of the local vino collapso. (What a Birthday party!) Next morning down to some serious cycling and the

LCpl John Mahon (foreground) finds the going tough. Cpl John Hogan brings up the rear

sights and delights of Sardinia. The weather was great and natives friendly and the cycling easy so far.

It took us three days to cycle through Sardinia. The first day was easy enough, no great problems, but the second day was another matter. There were hills, lots of hills, in fact lots of very big hills and the stories about the bandits are true, I've seen the bullet holes in the signposts and the natives didn't smile any more. It may have taken us a long time to go up the hills but we found our way down them quickly enough.

So after another night under the stars and a well earned shower we tended to our lumps, bumps, aching muscles and blisters. **Cpl Hogan** had a few lumps and bumps after an argument with a bollard on the side of a mountain. **Pte Crilley WRAC/RAOC** had a large blister on her ear! Soon we were on our way to catch the ferry. We needn't have bothered hurrying as the off shore workers had decided to work to rule, which meant a delay of eight hours, and a night on the docks for us. Not a comfortable night but spirits were high. We all managed to get some sleep, 'didn't we Boss?' Eight hours later we arrived in Genoa, where we met up with our Admin Party, consisting of Mabel the Minibus, **Sgt Ernie Kirkby** and **Cpl Vincent**. What a welcome sight they were. They guided us to our camp where they had a hot meal waiting for us. Cheers lads. Very nice. After a good night's sleep, lots of Algipan and a few jokes from **Sgt Wall**, we were on our bikes again, leaving behind the hills of Sardinia, on to the busy streets of Genoa with much horn tooting from motorists. The Italians shouted 'Avanti' to **Sig Bob Mundell** as he demonstrated how to surf on a bike with **Cpl Hogan** getting in a quick 'parmesian wave?' Time to stop for a Mars Bar, donated by them and a quick verse of 'Blue Moon'. We left Genoa and headed for Milan. We camped overnight, tended our wounds and hit the road again in a big way. It was my turn to come off my bike, but after a quick rub down and another Mars Bar everything was OK. So Avanti through the streets of Milan.

After arriving at our next campsite **Capt Stevenson** kindly gave us a day's R&R as we were making good time and it gave **Bob Mundell** a chance to work on the bikes and sort out any problems we had ie, blow drying our cycle shorts as the weather was the worst we had encountered so far. After sampling the local vino and pizza and meeting some interesting people we were off again heading for Switzerland, more hills and rain and some breathtaking scenery. Not that we had much breath left after cycling up the hills. Has anyone seen the two John's? They were lost in the fog on a Swiss hill/mountain, but were re-united in St Moritz with sun and more Mars bars. From there we went to Harry's campsite, **Nige Kirkby** said it was the only one for miles. The next morning we got up to face the 1km climb up the mountain (the only way out) only to see another campsite complete with swimming pool, hot showers and many more facilities only 2km away on level ground. Cheers **Nige** and **Vince**. What we had next was a good downward run into Austria and more beautiful scenery etc. Austria had its ups and downs in fact lots of ups and downs. Not good for the old saddle sores. The weather was very temperamental as we discovered at the Fern Pass. Within one hour we had encountered brilliant sunshine, torrential rain, hailstone like golf balls and thunder and lightning. So being soaked through we were forced to take refuge in a Gasthaus. This gave us the chance to dry off and have a hot meal and prepare ourselves for the last stage of our journey. We headed for Garmisch (park your kitchen) or is it Partenkirchen?

We arrived there with no mishap and, surprisingly, not one puncture after completing 1,005km. We spent the last night in Garmisch relaxing, and discussing the events of the last two weeks. We all agreed it had been a hard but very satisfying expedition which gave us opportunities to try things and see places we wouldn't normally have done.

PS. At the beginning of this report I said I think I'm mad. Now I know I'm mad, but I'm not alone Io teamio and Bassio.

Cheerio

On the ferry from Olbia to Genoa the team relax before meeting the hazards of Italy

At the top of the Fern Pass, the end almost in sight. *L to R:* Sgt Steve Wall, LCpl John Mahon, Cpl John Hogan, Pte Tracey Crilley, Sig Bob Mundell, Cpl John Barrie and Capt Mike Stevenson

SPORT

Capt Mike Stevenson and **Sgt Russ Dodd** were in the RAOC Viersen Squash Team which recently won the BAOR Minor Units Championships held at the Ahorn centre Paderborn. The win made up for being the losing finalists in last year's competition. The OC went on to play in the Army Minor units final against AA College Harrogate. The College proved too strong for Viersen but if we had to lose it was good to see a Corps unit take the title.

RAOC Viersen Squash Team. *(Back Left)* Sgt Russ Dodd, *(Back Right)* Capt (QM) Mike Stevenson

RSIT

Once again the team is exceptionally busy. It has recently changed OCs and it's a fond farewell to that slim, debonair quiet personage **Maj Dickie Dyer** and welcome to **Lt Col Dai Brown.**

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job Centres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Job Centres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1987-31 March 1988 the Association assisted 10,269 men and women with their resettlement and placed 5,017 in employment. Of those placed 2,321 were men and women from the Army and 243 were from your Corps.

632 Sig Tp
RA Range Outer Hebrides

Report by Capt Sandy Gallie

VISITORS

As is often the way up here in the Hebrides, it is either everything or nothing; glorious sunshine, blue skies and no wind, or a storm with horizontal rain! It is the same with visitors. During this period, the Range has had a number of visitors, including the CinC UKLF and GOC Scotland, and the Troop has, at the same time, been visited by Senior Corps Officers. **Col D. Miller**, OIC Manning and Record Office was closely followed by **Brig J. O. C. Alexander**, Comd 2 Sig Bde.

LS&GC AND COMMENDATION AWARDS

Brig Alexander presented **SSgt Jim Beecham** with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (he doesn't look young enough!) and **LCpl Tony Artigan** was presented with his NI Commendation for his work as an Aerial Rigger there by **Lt Gen Milne**, GOC Scotland. The Troop congratulates them both on these awards.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Our hellos go to the following: **Cpl Frank Fletcher, Sig (now LCpl) Kevin Maidment, Sig Ted Corner** and **LCpl Alan** and **Carmen Ritchie**.

We wish all the best in their new postings to: **Cpl Mark Baker** on his T1 at Catterick, **Cpl Rob Carter (Mandy's** still with us at the moment) to 21 Sig Regt via the Falklands, and to **LCpl Jimmy Patton** to 242 Sig Sqn (omitted from our last notes—sorry).

CONGRATULATIONS

Finally, conforming to the deadline of *The Wire* notes, our congratulations go to **Sgt Bill** and **Sarah Rennie** on the birth of their son **Gary William** on 26 April.

LCpl Tony Artigan after receiving his Commendation Certificate for service in Northern Ireland

Visit of Col Miller OIC Manning and Record Office
Front Row L to R: Mrs Jane Gallie, Mrs Maggie Simpson, Mrs Camille Wilkinson, Mrs Georgina Burns, Mrs Tracey Lilliman and Mrs Sylvia Norton
Centre Row L to R: Sgt Jim Simpson, WO2 (FofS) Mac McDonald, Col Miller, Capt Gallie and Cpl Pete Wilkinson
Back Row L to R: SSgt Jim Beecham, Sgt Bill Rennie, Sig Paul Monaghan, LCpl Dave Lilliman, Sgt Andy Burns, LCpls Tony Artigan and Kevin Maidment

Visit of Brig J. O. C. Alexander, Comd 2 Sig Bde
Front Row L to R: Mrs Tracey Lilliman, Mrs Jane Gallie, Brig Alexander, Mrs Camille Wilkinson, Mrs Georgina Burns and Mrs Sylvia Norton
Centre Row L to R: Capt Sandy Gallie, Maj David Anthonisz, WO2 (FofS) Mac McDonald, Sgts Andy Burns and Mick Norton
Back Row L to R: SSgt Jim Beecham, Cpl Pete Wilkinson, LCpl Dave Lilliman, Sgt Jim Simpson, LCpl Tony Artigan, Sgts Bill Rennie and Mark Keller

Presentation of LS&GC to SSgt Beecham by Brig J. O. C. Alexander, Comd 2 Sig Bde

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES

OC Troop	**Lt J. Cooper**
Foreman	**WO2 R. Kirkwood**
Yeoman	**WO2 D. Bowman**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt P. Stemmer**
TQMS	**Sgt B. Porter**

TITBITS

A quiet time gave members of the Troop an opportunity to improve their minds by going in search of a bit of culture. **Sgts Chris Ward** and **Jeff Guy** were two who, ended up buying two tickets for the ballet! Yes here in Belize. The following morning they decided it was not for them after all, and persuaded **Sgt 'Heavy' Henry Roxburgh** and **Sgt Ray Neal** to take their tickets. Wait until 264 Sig Sqn hear that you nearly went to the ballet **Chris**!

A long weekend saw some of the SNCOs sailing to San Pedro, on Amergis Caye, on an RPL with the Maritime Troop. The sailing time was four hours, so **SSgt 'Stiff' Stemmer** decided that it would be a good chance to do some panic tanning. Remember **'Stiff'** it is a good idea to take off your string vest before you go sunbathing so that your chest does not end up looking like a draughts board!

VISITS

CPD TROUBLE SHOOTER

After major problems on the telephone exchange the much valued assistance of CPD was sought and in their usual efficient manner they reacted quickly and sent **SSgt Mark Eaton** out to assist.

'No problem' stated the Staff Sergeant as he stepped from the VC10 'It should be sorted by the weekend; then I can get a civvy flight home, via Miami'. His first set back was when his civvy flight did not materialise and his second was caused by lack of spares which resulted in his being here for three weeks!

FAREWELLS

We bid farewell to **Capt Mike Griffiths** who has returned to 30 Sig Regt; do not forget the invites to the wedding or else we will send the photographs of your Gozome to **Alison. WO2 (YofS) K. Pywell** and **LCpl Steve Phillips** have also left, good luck to you all in your new jobs.

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome **Lt J. Cooper** and **WO2 (YofS) D. Bowman**. Have a good tour.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank **WO1(RMS) S. Bailes** of 29 Sig Regt for his assistance in obtaining a multi system video and television for the rebro station at Cooma Cairn, Steve, our gift is in the post!

COL MIKE GALLOWAY OBE

Col Mike Galloway, better known to us as Sir, is Colonel (Communications) 2 Sig Bde has visited us. He spent a very busy week visiting all the units and camps that we support.

The Management Team
Standing: WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowman, WO2 (YofS) Keith Pywell, SSgt Pete Stemmer and WO2 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood
Sitting: Capt J. Dryburgh, Col M. Galloway, Gp Capt Holtby and Lt J. Cooper

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, Combined Service Publications, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Early in 1978 **John Rudkin**, who had moved to Guernsey from Jersey in 1976, placed an advertisement in the Guernsey Evening Press inviting former members of the Corps, living in Guernsey, to contact him. About 30 people did so, and an informal gathering at a hotel was followed by a subscription dance to raise a little money for initial expenses. These functions were strongly supported by the late **Col T. M. Niven**, a distinguished ex-regular and territorial officer of the Corps, and one-time Deputy Lieutenant of Glasgow, who had lived in Guernsey for many years. (Sadly, **Col Niven** had to return to Glasgow a few years later because of his health and he died in December 1987—it would have pleased him very much to know that we have reached our tenth anniversary).

The first formal meeting—the inaugural meeting of the Branch—was held in March 1978. At the last moment, **John Rudkin** was called to France on business and the meeting was chaired by another founder-member, **Alvaro Salazar. John Rudkin** was elected our first chairman, and has been re-elected ever since.

In Guernsey, for obvious reasons, few manage to join us in our reunions, but we do send a representative to the Annual Meeting in London. The welfare section at HQ has always responded to any requests for help; apart from financial help we have received much support in the past.

Inevitably, ex-service organisations in Guernsey are getting smaller in numbers. While it is essential to the spirit that individual identities should be maintained, it is also desirable that closer links between ex-service organisations should be established. Otherwise, some individual organisations may become too small to act collectively. To this end, the Presidents of other ex-Service organisations have been invited to the Royal Signals Association tenth anniversary dinner as guests, while all their members have been invited to join in.

If you come to Guernsey do let us know!

From: Tom Freeman

Dear Sir,

I am a member of the Guernsey Branch of the Royal Signals Association and some months ago I suffered a spinal injury which necessitated a prolonged period in Odstock Hospital, near Salisbury.

During that time I received tremendous support from both serving and ex-members of the Corps. Please may I, through the Wire, thank all those who helped.

Yours sincerely
Tom Freeman

La Soucique
Les Landes
Vale
Guernsey CI

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

After the meal the Toast Master, **Capt Tom Remfrey**, introduced His Excellency, who proposed The Royal Toast. This was followed by a toast to the **Princess Royal GCVO**, our Colonel-in-Chief, proposed by **Mr Len Barbe**. In calling for a toast for the guests, the Chairman of the Association welcomed representatives of the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Association, the Royal Artillery Association, the Association of Royal Engineers, the Royal Corps of Transport, the Hampshire Regiment, the Royal Air Force Association and the Royal British Legion.

In his speech **Capt Rudkin** recalled the happenings in the 10 years since the Association was founded. He remembers the time when he was able to inform **Lt Col Murray** of its formation and how during

The dinner to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the forming of Guernsey Royal Signals Association was held on Friday 25 March and was attended by some 90 members and guests. The guests of honour were His Excellency **The Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey General Sir Alexander Boswell KCB, CBE** and **Lady Boswell** and the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE** and **Mrs Birtwistle**.

The proceedings commenced with a period of one minute silence as a tribute to two members of the Corps **Cpl Derek Wood** and **Cpl David Howes**, who were so tragically killed in Northern Ireland.

those 10 years the Staff Band of the Corps, first under **Lt Col Keith Boulding** and later twice led by **Maj Gordon Turner**, had visited the Island. **Capt Rudkin** spoke particularly of last year's tribute to our Parent Corps of Royal Engineers who were then celebrating their bicentenary and of the bringing together on that occasion of other ex-Service Associations and the Police and Fire Departments.

Within our own Branch we have had many happy and informal gatherings. Evening bus tours to see some parts of Guernsey we have hardly noticed before, visits to States Telecoms, and the Postal Headquarters, a Guernsey bean-jar on the beach, dinners, bar-suppers. The list is endless. These are, of course, the outer manifestation of the strength of spirit within the Branch, the caring and co-operation as epitomised by the manner in which the Association cherishes its less fortunate members in times of adversity. He spoke also of the generosity of members, of the Branch exemplified by the number of gifts provided for the evening's raffle, ably run by **Alf Laine** and also for the provision of the wonderfully baked and decorated cake by **Mrs Edna Chester**.

In his response, His Excellency **Gen Boswell** thanked the Chairman. He spoke of the privilege he and **Lady Boswell** enjoyed being present at such a special occasion, particularly with their friends of long standing, **Gen** and **Mrs Birtwistle**.

The General referred to recent events in Northern Ireland and asked the gathering to join him in saluting the professionalism and dedication, as well as the restraint, shown by the splendid young men and women who are serving today in what-ever shade of uniform.

Following a toast to the Royal Signals Association, **Gen Birtwistle** said that he and his wife felt most proud and honoured to be visiting the Island for the second time. He went on to describe some of the facets of his work as Chairman of the Royal Signals Association and emphasised the spirit of co-operation and comradeship fostered within both serving and ex-members of the Corps.

As our memorable evening ended, **Mike Brock**, our Vice Chairman, presented on behalf of the Branch, a wonderful portrait of old Guernsey to our Chairman. Then as members circulated informally to the music provided by The Northern British Legion Band, nostalgic memories were exchanged.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

From Capt Jane Knight

One of the most successful evenings this Branch has enjoyed was the occasion of the April meeting when **Lt Col Douglas Crookes OBE**, of the Aldershot Branch was our guest and entertained us to a show of Magic, of which he is a most accomplished exponent. More than 60 Members and guests were present and the evening ended with an excellent buffet supper produced by the Ladies Section of the Branch. We hope that **Lt Col Crookes** will be our guest again on some future occasion.

Few of us remember a more pleasant day at Blandford. Driving through a heavy rainstorm, our despondency lifted when we arrived in brilliant sunshine which lasted all day. More than 50 Members and guests included the President of Uxbridge Burma Star Association, **Group Capt N. G. Goodman OBE JP DL** and **Mrs Goodman**, whom

we always are happy to welcome. The Band was magnificent, and to see both the White and the Blue Helmets was a great bonus. We thank our host Regiment for a very good day.

Thanks are due to **Mr Harry Ruff** for carrying our Standard at the Retreat ceremony at Blandford, and also at the Royal Naval Association parade at Hanworth, where it was the only Army standard paraded.

602 SIG TP ASSOCIATION

Our annual reunion dinner was held at the Moat House Hotel, Oxford on Saturday 30 April. The dinner was attended by 50 members and their wives. Some members travelling from as far a field as Newcastle and the Isle of Wight.

The weekend started with members arriving around 1100 hrs and by 1400 hrs everything was in full swing. Members took full advantage of the facilities in the hotel playing squash, snooker, swimming or having a fair old time in the bar. And then the odd sauna or jaccuzzi to revitalise the body for the evening.

2015 hrs arrived all too quickly and we were called into dinner. After an excellent meal the AGM was convened and it was agreed that the annual dinner be held each May Day bank holiday weekend. The next one, it is hoped, will be held in Harrogate. The summer barbecue will be held on 27/28 August at Bisley. Please send applications to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Sunday was the 'at home' visit to 602 Sig Tp at Bicester. It was a great success, first a viewing of their latest equipment and some members getting 'hands on', and refinding skills which they thought had long since deserted them. A buffet lunch was provided by the Troop and during the lunch a presentation was made to them by our Chairman **Ken Purnell**, on behalf of the AOF to the Officer Commanding—**Maj George Lile**. The gift of a brass GPO type morse key with the inscription: 'From 602 AOF' will be presented to the Best Student on each SC course.

If you would like to join us in the AOF please write to our Secretary **Dave Smedley** at 5 Old Rectory Close, Powick, Worcester WR2 4QU or telephone 0905 831705.

AOF members 'At Home Day' during visit to 602 Sig Tp (SC)

AOF Chairman Ken Purnell making the presentation to the OC Maj George Lile

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CROSS COUNTRY

BAOR INTER-CORPS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988

Report by Sgt Charlie Foster—202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn

The BAOR Inter-Corps Cross Country Championships were held at Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck on a very hot and dry day in April 1988.

The Corps was fielding a very strong team on paper; with **Sgts Bill Bailey** (1ADSR), **Dave Carr** (7 Sig Regt) and **Cpl Jeff Martin** (204 Sig Sqn) in attendance. The team selected consisted of the top 10 from the recent Corps BAOR Championship held in Herford.

After a very fast start the runners settled into their stride and it was apparent that the winning team would come from either the strong RAOC team, last year's winners, or the Royal Signals team.

After about one and a half miles the runners reached an extremely steep hill and it was at this point that **Sgt Bill Bailey** forged to the front with former Army Champion, **Cpl Mark Lassetter RE** and with **Cpl Jeff Martin, Sgt Dave Carr** and **Cpl 'Taff' Roberts** (7 Sig Regt) all up in the top 10. **Cpl Jeff Martin** was running extremely well considering that he had run a 2 hr 26 mins marathon at Rotterdam the previous Sunday.

With stalwart team members such as **Cpl Andy Kennedy** (1ADSR), **2Lt Fred Wichelo** (204 Sig Sqn), **Sgt 'Taff' Thomas** (584 RLD), and **LCpl Nick Withers** (1ADSR) all in the top 25 places at the half way mark the Corps team was in sight of regaining the honours that they won in 1986.

Over the last two miles though **LBdr Pedge**, a hill and long distance specialist, overhauled **Sgt Bailey** and pulled away enough to ensure a well deserved victory. **Sgt Bailey** held on for second place with **Cpl Martin** third. With 8 Corps runners from the team of 10 in the top 20 places victory was assured. Incidentally **Cpl 'Taff' James** of 7 Sig Regt, the current Army Marathon Champion, who was reserve on the day, also finished in the top 20 and, therefore, would have increased our remarkable winning margin of 61 points had his place counted. This was probably one of the strongest Corps sides ever produced by the Corps.

Sgt Bill Bailey—Receives the Trophy

INDIVIDUALS

1st	**LBdr Pedge** (RA)
2nd	**Sgt Bill Bailey** (1ADSR)
3rd	**Cpl Jeff Martin** (204 Sig Sqn)

CORPS POSITIONS

5th	**Cpl 'Taff' Roberts** (7 Sig Regt)
7th	**Sgt Dave Carr** (7 Sig Regt)
10th	**Cpl Andy Kennedy** (1ADSR)
13th	**Lt Fred Wichelo** (202 Sig Sqn)
14th	**Sgt 'Taff' Thomas** (584 RLD)
19th	**LCpl Nick Withers** (1ADSR)
21st	**Cpl Syd Perks** (1ADSR)
44th	**Sig Shaun Fennelly** (1ADSR)

TEAM POSITIONS

1st	R Signals—73 points
2nd	RAOC—134 points
3rd	APTC—210 points
4th	Infantry—370 points

The Team

Back Row (L to R): Cpl Roberts, Sgt Bailey, Lt Wichelo, Sgt Carr, Cpl Martin and LCpl Withers

Front Row (L to R): Cpl Perks, Sig Fennelly, Cpl Kennedy and Sgt Thomas

TENNIS

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS (BAOR) 1988

The 1988 Royal Signals Tennis Championships (BAOR) were held at Maresfield Barracks the home of 7 Sig Regt on 12-14 May 1988. This year we were fortunate to have glorious weather complemented by a good turnout from the majority of BAOR Signals Units, with special mention to 28 Sig Regt who provided eight participants. This year it was especially good to see a few young new faces competing for the first time but as the following results show the old and bold are difficult to dislodge.

RESULTS

	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Open Singles	**Capt W. V. Miles** (7 Sig Regt) 6—1	**Sgt P. Lamplough** (28 Sig Regt) 6—0
Men's Open Doubles	**Capt W. V. Miles** **SSgt A. Hamilton** (21 Sig Regt) 7—6	**LCpl Coleman** (28 Sig Regt) **LCpl Hall** (28 Sig Regt) 6—2
Regimental Doubles	**Capt W. V. Miles** **SSgt W. Garn** (7 Sig Regt) 1—6 6—4	**Lt Col B. Chubb** **Sgt P. Lamplough** (28 Sig Regt) 7—5
Ladies Doubles	**Cpl H. Baughen** (Comcen 4 Div) **Capt H. Collins** (RAMC Munster) 6—0	**Mrs Rudd** (7 Sig Regt) **Mrs Elliot** (7 Sig Regt) 6—0
Mixed Doubles (Open Event for Ladies Partnered by R Sigs Male)	**SSgt A. Hamilton** **Cpl H. Baughen** 4—6 6—2	**Capt W. V. Miles** **Capt H. Collins** 6—1
Plate	**SSgt A. Hall** (22 Sig Regt)	**LCpl Taylor** (28 Sig Regt)

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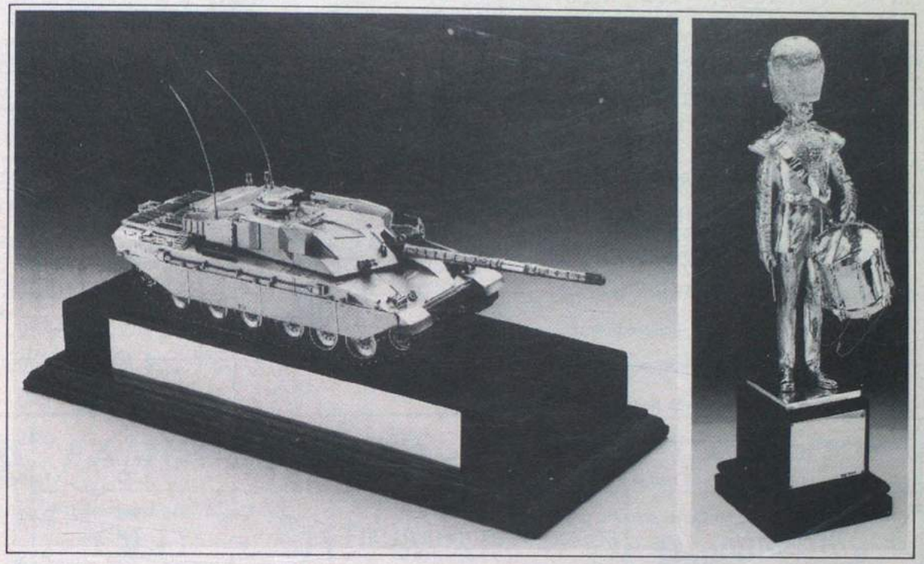

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7½" × 5½"	0.80	0.85
3" × 2⅜"	0.75	0.80
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Stick pin, sterling silver, as above	8.60	9.50
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BFBS are delighted with the support from the many companies who donated items, in particular Austin Rover Military Car Sales who gave an MG Metro which raised some

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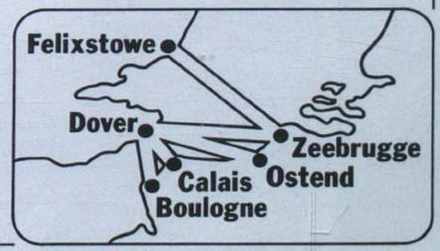

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

September 1988

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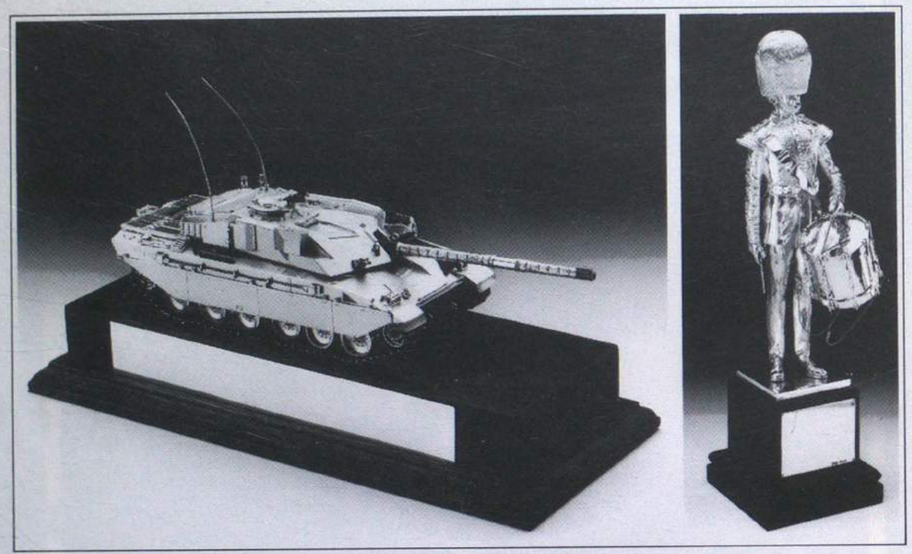

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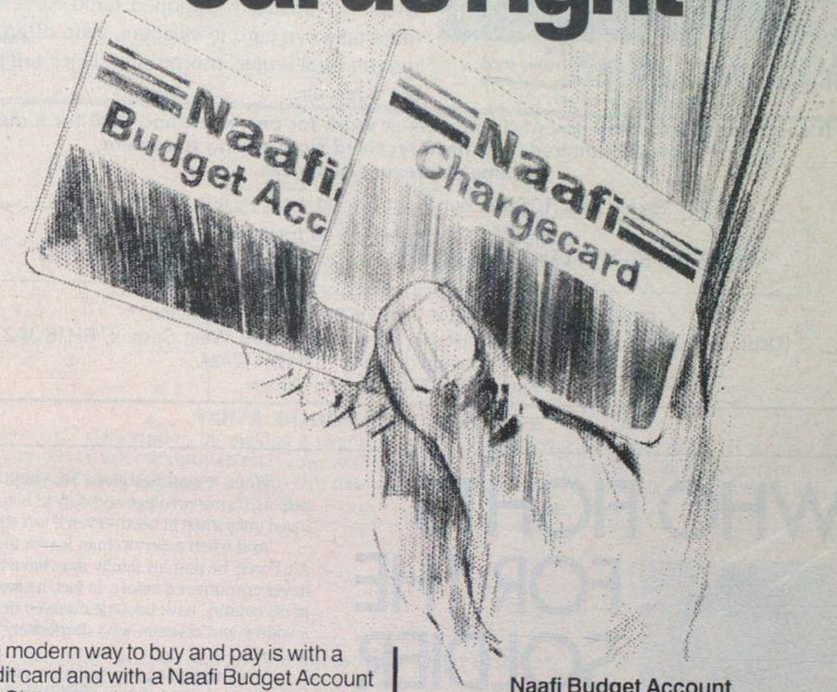

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

EDITOR'S NOTES

COVER PICTURE
This shows some of the participants on Exercise Ruwenzori Diamond climbing through the giant heather on the slopes of the Ruwenzori Range

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BOOKS OF CONDOLENCE

Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE, Signal Officer-in-Chief, seen receiving books of condolence from **Sir Robin Kinahan JP, Lord Lieutenant of Belfast**. The books, containing over 100,000 signatures which were collected over a period of four or five weeks, express the feelings of the people of Northern Ireland concerning the murders of **Cpls Howes** and **Wood** on 19 March 1988.

Each of the six volumes is prefaced by the following text:-

'We, the British citizens of Northern Ireland wish to place on record our total abhorrence of the atrocious murders by the IRA of two of our gallant soldiers on Saturday 19 March 1988 at Andersonstown and extend to their families and comrades our deepest sympathy.'

In presenting the books, **Sir Robert Kinahan** remarked on the loss of further Royal Signals personnel in the Lisburn bombing. He felt sure that the sentiments expressed would extend to these soldiers also.

Maj Gen Alexander expressed his deep appreciation for the books and said that he would arrange for the families of the soldiers to view them as soon as convenient.

MISS BEING PART OF A TEAM?

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– From our "In" Tray –

FALKLAND WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATED IN CATTERICK

The third memorial to those members of the Corps who gave their lives in the Falkland Campaign was dedicated in a small but moving service in 8 Sig Regt on 25 June 1988. The other two memorials to **Maj Mike Forge** and **Lt Jim Barry** are sited at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate and at 11 Sig Regt respectively.

Earlier in the year a number of ideas were suggested regarding the type of memorial to be erected to the memory of six non commissioned officers who died in the Falklands, **SSgt (YofS) Baker, Cpls Burns, McCormack, McHugh, Sykes** and **LCpl Lightfoot**. The final choice was a stone memorial with a plaque listing their names, set against a background of the Union and Falkland Islands flags. A stone was selected and donated by the nearby Ingleton Quarry. 15 Sqn RCT brought the stone to Catterick and members of their LAD under **AQMS Beattie** placed it in position. The stone has been left untouched and is exactly as it was uncovered after firing of explosive charges at the quarry.

It was agreed that the memorial should be dedicated during the 1988 Catterick Reunion weekend and we were particularly fortunate to have with us on that occasion **The Right Rev Richard Harries**, The Bishop of Oxford to perform the dedication. He had served in the Corps as a Subaltern and is the son of a distinguished Royal Signals officer, **Brig W. D. J. Harries CBE**. The service was conducted by **Padre John Webb**, the Senior Chaplain Catterick Garrison, in the presence of the families of **Cpls McHugh, Sykes** and **LCpl Lightfoot**. The Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** paid tribute to the six NCOs before the dedication.

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE Chairman of the Royal Signals Association was present and the Training Group Royal Signals was represented by the Commander, **Brig A. F. Eastburn** together with the COs of 8 and 11 Sig Regts, **Col P. B. Webster** and **Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer**. Also present were **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE** and **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB** and the Regimental Secretary, **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**.

The Stone is located in front of Vimy 'B' Block on Queen's Avenue. This is a prominent position within 8 Sig Regt, immediately opposite the Trade Training School entrance, where it will be seen by many as they go about their daily tasks. All who have seen the memorial have been impressed with its simple but imposing style and agree that it is a fitting and poignant reminder of those members of the Corps who lost their lives in the Falklands conflict.

2 INFANTRY DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT WINS ARMY INTER UNIT ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

A WALK IN THE PARK
By Maj M. N. Grieves

'Are you sure, **Dobson**?'

'Positive, Sir. We may have lost a bit of depth but we still have the style—we'll just outclass the rest. It'll be like a walk in the park.'

Such was **Cpl Dobson's** assessment of the Regiment's chances of retaining the Army Inter-Unit Athletics Championships. This view was expressed on the morning of the Group 5 Elimination Competition but by that evening, when 1 PWO had beaten us by three points, I realised that the park was going to be filled with muggers!

When I assumed my appointment as OC 2 Sqn and Athletics Officer in January it became clear from my initial interview with the then CO, **Lt Col Hugh Elford**, that my priority for the year was to bring the Army Athletics Shield back to York. Early planning meetings with the team captain, **Capt Jim Richardson**, indicated that whilst several excellent athletes from the successful 1987 team had been posted, sufficient talent remained to constitute an excellent team. The weaknesses appeared to be in middle distance track events and field power events. The solution clearly lay in a number of individuals doubling-up and in a well planned, extensive training programme. The design for battle was agreed and it fell to me to convince the incoming CO, **Lt Col John Griffin**, of the value of losing nearly thirty of his best tradesmen for four months, including the summer exercise period, so that on one day in July they could prove they were the best in the Army—again!

The CO took little persuading and rapidly gave his total support. He did, however, address the squad pointing out the sacrifices other, less talented, members of the Regiment would have to make to cover for the absent athletes. The onus was therefore clearly on myself and the squad to train hard, compete aggressively and not betray the confidence the Regiment was placing in us. The defeat by 1 PWO at the first major competition of the season was, therefore, a very sobering experience.

After a brief post mortem the team was reorganised slightly and inspired by **Capt Richardson** and **Sgt Killen** with a more competitive spirit. The rematch with 1 PWO came at the Zone B Finals on 22 June, whilst the Regiment was on Ex Summer Tide. I waited anxiously in the RCP in the field for a call from **Capt Richardson**. At last, at about 2030 hrs the call was received, we had won by six points with several personal bests recorded—revenge was sweet! Shortly afterwards the BAOR Championships were held and **Capt Richardson** and I carefully examined the individual efforts of athletes from 50 Msl Regt RA and 21 Sig Regt. It was clear that whilst the Regiment's form allowed for quiet confidence the performances of the BAOR teams would ensure that the Army Inter-Unit Championships would be keenly contested. All of my athletes would have to perform to the best of their abilities if victory was to be assured.

The team arrived at Aldershot having won the Morrison Cup (UK) in appalling conditions. The weather on 19 July was warm and clear, ideal for athletics and the Regimental Tent in the corner of the

stadium added a 'touch of class' to the day. The event started with **LCpl Curtis** and **SSgt George** giving a good account of themselves in the hammer. **LCpls Vile** and **Freeman** opened our account on the track by producing very aggressive preformances in the 5,000m and gaining firsts in the first and second string competitions. The greatest drama however occurred in the 400m hurdles, **LCpl Francis** ran a race of the highest quality and won the second string competition. In the first string competition **LCpl Key** produced such an explosive start that after 200m he was unexpectedly in the lead. He continued to fight off the favourite, **SSgt Poulsen** (21 Sig Regt) until two hurdles from home when having exerted so much effort **LCpl Key** faltered and fell. However, he quickly recoverd and managed to retain fourth position, an exceptionally brave performance. Regimental success continued with **LCpl Curtis** and **Cpl Dobson** doing well in the discus and **LCpl Speight** and **Sig Perry** running exceptionally well to take first and second in their respective legs of the 800m when 1 PWO and 21 Sig Regt were the fancied teams. The morning's events finished with good performances from **Sgt Newell** and **LCpl Bartliff** in the triple jump and easy wins for **Cpl Callender** and **Sig McSween** in the 200m. Over lunch an engaging battle between **Sgt Killen** and **Cpl Lyon** (1 PWO) was being fought in the pole vault. Despite the great efforts of the athletes the Regiment was three points behind 1 PWO and four points ahead of 50 Msl Regt RA.

The afternoon's events began very well for the Regiment, **Sgt Killen** eventually won the pole vault. He and **Sig McSween** won both legs of the 110m hurdles and **Sig McSween** also won the first string long jump. By this time I was constantly at the Scorers' tent. It was clear that the competition was close and individual points were vital. In 1986 the Regiment had won the championship by one point on a count-back after the event but on the day the scores had not been scrutinised sufficiently closely and the day went to 50 Msl Regt RA by one point. I knew I could not allow this to happen again. However, once **Sgt Newell** had won the second string long jump and **LCpls Francis** and **Key** had won their respective legs of the 400m the Regiment was six points ahead of 1 PWO and with the strength we had in our sprinters it seemed that the day was won. However, I suddenly remembered the Group 5 Eliminator when I PWO had beaten us at 4 × 100m relay. **LCpls Collins** and **Speight** produced unexpectedly good efforts in the 3,000m steeplechase, **Capt Richardson** and **LCpl Baldwin** added more points with excellent throws in the javelin and **Sgt Killen** and **LCpl Baldwin** did well in the shot.

It was, however, the stylish win by **LCpl Vile**, the current Army Individual Champion in 1,500m, well supported by **LCpl Freeman**, that put the competition beyond doubt. I had great pleasure in telling the CO, and the team, that the Regiment was 12 points ahead with only the 4 × 100m and 4 × 400m relays to go.

It was in the relays that the team showed its total domination. The 4 × 100m team of **LCpls Austen, Henry, Sig McSween** and **Cpl Callender** cruised to an easy win of about 30m. Whilst the 4 × 400m team of **LCpls Key, Francis, Bartliff** and **Sgt Killen** won by some 100m, having been given a 5m lead on the first leg by **LCpl Key**. The final score was, the Regiment 232 points and 1 PWO 208 points, with 50 Msl Regt RA and 21 Sig Regt in third and fourth places. It was very satisfying to agree with **Cpl Dobson** that in the event it had been 'a walk in the park' and comforting to know that we had avoided all of the muggers!

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT WINNER OF THE ROYALS SIGNALS BOARDSAILING CHAMPIONSHIP 1988

16 Signal Regiment—Boardsailing Teams 1988
Champions and runners-up—Royal Signals Boardsailing Championships 1988
Back Row L-R: Sig (Ritchie) Townsend, Capt (Phil) Daisey and LCpl (Nobby) Hall
Front Row L-R: Cpl (Kenny) Butler, LCpl (Keith) Taylor, Sgt (Dougie) Maher, Cpl (Geordie) English and Cpl (Stevie) Dickson

37th (WESSEX & WELSH) SIGNAL REGIMENT VOLUNTEERS) SCORES AT BISLEY

Bisley 1988 saw Corps history made when the shooting team of 37 (Wessex and Welsh) Sig Regt won the North Irish Militia Trophy by becoming the top placed non-Infantry Unit at the Territorial Army meeting. This trophy was held for the previous eight years by 150 Transport Regt RCT(V).

Cpl Lloyd Thomas gained an outstanding win by taking the Volongdis Trophy with his excellent LMG marksmanship, another first win for Royal Signals. He is pictured with his trophy.

The team led by **Sgts Bonzo Head** and **John Burns** had a magnificent weekend which was capped with third place in the Dragon Trophy, the Overall TA Champion Unit competition. 37 Sig Regt were third to two noted shooting Infantry Battalions, they out-shot 21 other Infantry Battalions and 26 other units. The team was placed second equal but came third on a countback.

In addition to winning these trophies the Regiment became the winners of the Mercury Cup (Royal Signals TA Trophy) for the third year in succession. There were many excellent individual performances including **Sgt Head** (fifth), **LCpls Walker** and **Pearce** in the Queen's Medal (TARA 50) and **SSgt Campbell** in SMG 30 but it was the consistently good shooting and fitness of the whole team that was the cornerstone of their success.

The team were strongly supported at Bisley by the Hon Col **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB**. The Team Manager **Maj John Reed** doubles as the Training Major when not on the range!

Sgt Head went on to take five other trophies and a third position in subsequent matches: The Cambridgeshire, The Standing, The Queen Mary, The Noble and The Tyler—first; The Secretary of State for War—third.

The full team results were:

TERRITORIAL ARMY CENTRAL MEETING
BISLEY 1988
MAJOR TROPHIES
THE DRAGON TROPHY
TA Champion Unit

1st	6 R Anglian (V)	595
2nd	4 RGJ (V)	576
3rd	37 Sig Regt (V)	576

THE NORTH IRISH MILITIA TROPHY
Non Infantry Team

1st	37 Sig Regt (V)	576
2nd	150 Tpt Regt RCT (V)	511
3rd	151 Tpt Regt RCT (V)	430

THE MERCURY CUP
Royal Signals (V) Champions

1st	37 Sig Regt (V)	576
2nd	71 Sig Regt (V)	157
3rd	40 Sig Regt (V)	126
4th	40 Sig Regt (V)	8

MATCH RESULTS

Volongdis Cup	LMG	1st
Highland Volunteers Quaich	SLR Moving Target	3rd
Yorkshire Volunteers Cup	SLR	4th
China Cup	Section Match	5th
ARA Cup	SLR	5th
Mullens Trophy	SLR	5th
Wessex Cup	SLR	17th
SMG Cup	SMG	6th
Pistol Cup	Pistol	10th

The team pictured above consisted of: *Back Row:* SSgt Ray Campbell, 67 Sig Sqn, Stratford; Sgt Fred Newton, 53 Sig Sqn, Brecon; LCpl Rob Pearce, 53 Sig Sqn, Cardiff; Cpl Lloyd Thomas, 57 Sig Sqn, Cheltenham; Sgt Bonzo Head, 53 Sig Sqn Cardiff
Front Row: Sig Guy Gibson, 43 Sig Sqn, Bridgwater, LCpl Geordie Walker, 53 Sig Sqn, Brecon; Sgt John Burns, 57 Sig Sqn, Bristol

EXERCISE RUWENZORI DIAMOND
HIGH ALTITUDE TREKKING IN EASTERN ZAIRE

by Lt Simon Purser

In early June of this year 14 members of 14 Sig Regt set off on 'Ex Ruwenzori Diamond', a trekking expedition to Eastern Zaire. We had to cope with all possible extremes of weather during the four week expedition and conditions varied from the hot sticky climate in the tropical rain forest of the Zaire river basin, to sub zero arctic conditions on the glaciers of the 16,000ft Ruwenzori Mountains.

The expedition members were:-

Leader	**Lt Simon Purser**
2IC	**Capt Stuart Sharman**
Medic	**Sgt Dave Graves RAMC**
Ornithologist	**Cpl Richard Angove**
	Cpl Brian Sweatman
	LCpl Ted Whichelo
	LCpl Jerry Cowin
	LCpl Danny Thrasher
	LCpl Freddie Deakin
	LCpl John Lester
	LCpl Mick Bennett
	LCpl Bob Ackland-Snow
	LCpl Jonathan Wood
	LCpl Mark Wilkinson

The organisation and planning took over a year as the region is one of the most remote and inaccessible in the world. The logistics of the expedition were unusually complicated, as the most suitable approach to the mountains would have been through Uganda, but this was not possible due to the political situation there. The route through Zaire was to prove particularly complicated. The aim of the expedition was to trek at high altitude on the Zaire side of the Ruwenzori Mountains, a range of mountains which runs along the Uganda-Zaire border. Although almost on the equator, the 80km range of mountains is permanently snow capped and forms the largest glaciated area in Africa. The mountains are believed to be the legendary 'Mountains of the Moon' referred to by the Romans as the source of the Nile. They were also the setting for H. Ryder Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*.

We flew from Brussels to Kinshasa with Air Zaire and a 24 hour delay at Brussels was just a taste of the problems to come. The staff at the British Embassy in Kinshasa met the expedition at the airport and managed to get us on an internal flight eastwards to Goma, the nearest airstrip to the mountains. Although we only stayed a few hours at Kinshasa airport it was long enough for **LCpl Michael Bennett** to get himself arrested by the Zairean authorities for taking a photograph and only after Embassy intervention was he released. It proved a salutary introduction to Africa.

The town of Goma lies on the northern edge of Lake Kivu and is overlooked by the huge cone of the Nyragongo volcano rising to over 11,000ft. This was our first climb and a chance to acclimatise to the intense African heat. From the base of the volcano to the summit was seven hours of arduous walking firstly through the dense jungle vegetation, but later through thinner bamboo forest. The climb was made harder by the 75lb packs that contained much of the food and equipment for the following weeks. The summit was reached just before sunset and gave the opportunity to look into the gigantic crater of the volcano belching clouds of sulphurous steam. The volcano is still very active and last errupted in 1986. The black path cut through the jungle by the molten lava is still clearly visible and eruptions over the past hundred years have claimed thousands of lives.

We camped just below the crater rim, with a harsh frost and snow flurries providing a contrast to the heat of the lower slopes. The descent the following day took us down to the dirt track that was the main road north leading to the Ruwenzori Range. Although a distance of under 300 miles, the trip was to take nearly a week due to the appalling road conditions. In places the rain had washed out massive sections of road and had left mud holes large enough to swallow complete trucks! No public transport was available and we had no alternative but to divide into small groups and take whatever transport we could find, usually overladen trucks.

By now the expedition medic, **Sgt Dave Graves** was much in demand to cure some of the minor stomach ailments that some of us were developing. Fortunately, nothing much serious was to test his skills. He went on the expedition well equipped for blood transfusions within the group in case of a serious accident, as the area is seriously affected by Aids and local medical facilities are primitive.

The expedition finally met up again at Beni, a reasonably sized market town close to the mountains. The three groups that had travelled separately all had their own adventures and stories to tell. **Capt Stuart Sharman** had travelled with **Cpl Ritchy Angove, LCpl Bob Ackland-Snow** and **LCpl Mark Wilkinson**. A truck they were travelling in became bogged, up to its axles, in the thick mud. They were able to hitch a ride on a Land-Rover owned by UNESCO but first had to construct a road for it to cross the mud hole. They had to dig for over four hours through the night in torrential rain working with their hands or using their ice axes as picks. They eventually got the Land-Rover over the mud hole and were able to make their way onwards to Beni.

Beni was the final stop for buying rations and we then moved to Mutsora, a small village on the foothills of the mountains where coffee and bananas are grown. A small run-down lodge there provided shelter from the heavy tropical rain and it was the last human habitation before setting off into the thick forest for the five-day climb up to the mountains. We hired our guide, **John Peter**, from the local barracks and he accompanied us for the remainder of our time in the Ruwenzoris. We had been able to obtain reasonably good maps and did not really need any guides but they are a compulsory requirement in the region. The first day's climb was moderately easy considering the heavy packs and the thick vegetation. Monkeys and birds were the only company we had in the jungle although there were leopard pug marks on the ground and evidence of elephants having been in the area.

The second day's climb was much harder, with the route becoming a tangle of giant heather, moss and thick treacly mud. As we gained altitude, the temperature dropped but the humid sticky air now became a clinging fog making life even more uncomfortable. The only reward was the incredible vegetation; a scene that could have been taken from a science fiction film, with giant heather plants and moss 4ft deep. At still higher altitude this gave way to the giant groundsel plants for which the mountains are famous. Although it also grows on Mt Kenya and Kilimanjaro, the almost constant fog and rain on the Ruwenzoris produces dense groundsel forests which are unique.

At the end of the third day we reached the Kiondo hut. Originally built by the Belgian colonial authorities in what used to be the Albert National Park, it is still in reasonable condition and provided a sheltered base for several days' exploration. The effects of altitude were becoming more acute and the humid air seemed to make breathing much harder. Several members of the team became quite ill and did not recover until they came down from the mountains at the end of the trip. Everyone however, managed to climb to the summit of Wasuwameso (15,200ft) which was reasonably close to the hut. Mt Mugule (14,800ft) was another peak about three hours walk way which proved an interesting route for those who were well enough to make it. The route followed a difficult rocky ridge that became very slippery when the thick fog descended. The return trip was made on compass bearings through the fog, by a different route which turned out to be through an impenetrable tangle of heather and groundsel which forced us to climb through the branches instead of walking on the ground.

Once the western hills had been fully explored it was time to move higher up to the glacier area on the Mt Stanley group which includes the highest peak in the range, Margherita (16,763ft). Because of the altitude sickness **Sgt Dave Graves** remained at Kiondo hut with four patients, while the rest of the party set off in a heavy snow storm. The path became so difficult that **Capt Stuart Sharman** had to set up a belay to allow the party to traverse a rock face with a drop of 300ft below. The route continued up past a series of glacial lakes all appropriately named after their remarkable colours. The lowest, Lac Noir was an inky black then Lac Vert a truly vivid green colour. Further up Lac Gris and Lac Blanc also lived up to their names; the colours are caused by glacial sediment.

The party camped by the remains of the Moraine hut at 14,149ft directly below the Alexandra and West Stanley Glaciers. By this time the snow had become very heavy although it was relatively warm causing a high risk of avalanches. During the night a huge chunk of ice broke off from the bottom of the Alexandra Glacier crashing into the moraine just a few feet from our tents and setting off an avalanche above. The plan had been to continue across this moraine and cross to the Stuhlmann Pass which leads to the Ugandan border. The following morning showed no respite in the snow storm, and the risk of avalanches meant either a wait or a return to Kiondo hut. With only one day left to us it seemed pointless staying particularly as some of those suffering from altitude sickness were deteriorating. Because of the high humidity there is a high risk of pneumonia in the Ruwenzoris, so it seemed prudent to return earlier rather than later, particularly as there are no rescue or medical facilities within four days' march from the mountains.

As the party made its way down, the snow turned gradually to rain. We arrived back at Kiondo hut in mid-afternoon and collected **Sgt Dave Graves** and his patients who by now had shown some improvement. We set off down the mountain and soon the sun came out and the temperature climbed quickly as we lost altitude. We camped at 11,000ft, everyone slept better and the almost continuous headaches of the previous days disappeared. However, the snow on the upper slopes had been torrential rain lower down and the path became a quagmire. On the last day everyone paced out to cover what had taken two days to climb. On arrival back at Mutsora one or two members of the team were close to exhaustion. However there was tremendous satisfaction that the aim of the expedition had been achieved.

There now remained the torturous route back via the road, which had now lost its novelty value. The trip was made without serious difficulty, although **Sgt Dave Graves, LCpls Gerry Cowin, Mark Wilkinson** and **Michael Bennett** spent a very uncomfortable two days on the top of some dried fish on a very overloaded lorry which suffered four blowouts in as many hours.

On returning to Goma there were still a few days left before the flight home. The area is now famous for the small colonies of mountain gorillas that inhabit the lower slopes of the volcanoes, and worldwide only 300 or so of this endangered species are left. Helped by the Frankfurt Zoological Society, the National Park authorities have organised guides to take visitors in small groups to see the gorillas in the wild. The expedition was in an ideal position to take advantage of what is usually restricted to very expensive and exclusive tourist groups. Over a period of several days everyone in the expedition was able to see the gorillas which were definitely one of the highlights of the expedition.

After trekking through the jungle with the local guide and tracker for most of the morning the gorilla family was located. Although they have a reputation for aggression, much of it is bluff and it is rare for them to attack humans who do not threaten them. Despite this, **Cpl Brian Sweatman** ran his fastest ever 100m when the largest male gorilla in the group charged them, but luckily the gorilla was bluffing and stopped a few feet short, before losing interest and moving away!

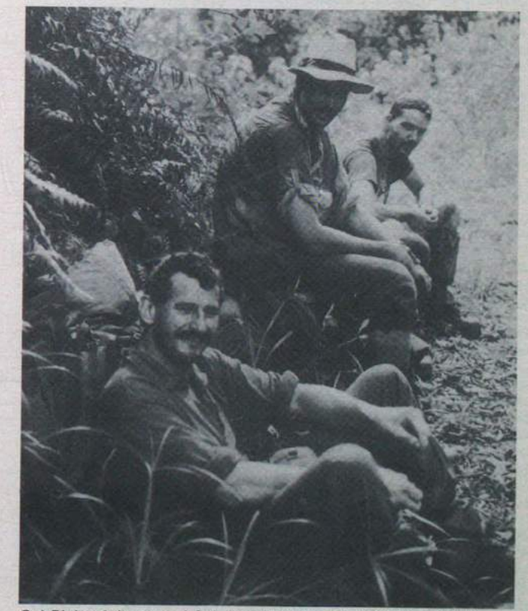
We finally returned to Goma for the last time and camped at a rather smart sporting club between the tennis courts and the basketball court. While camped here one of the more unfortunate incidents took place when **Cpl Brian Sweatman** and **LCpl Freddie Deakin** had their packs, which contained a considerable amount of valuable equipment, stolen. The camp site was guarded but it appeared that there was some collusion between the guards and the thieves, although it was impossible to prove. The local police did little to help and found the whole episode rather hilarious which did not inspire confidence. With little time left we packed up and made our way out to the airstrip, and the Air Zaire plane took us back to Kinshasa. The British Embassy personnel once again did a fine job, clearing us through at the airport and hosted us at a party on our final night in Zaire before the return flight to Brussels.

The expedition was an undoubted success and everybody in the party not only enjoyed it, but found it a considerable challenge. The Ruwenzoris lived up to their reputation of being remote and inaccessible, and although we were only a trekking expedition, we had had more than our share of difficult climbs. The expedition gave many of us a taste of what the mountains have to offer, and many would now wish to return on a full climbing expedition to attempt the highest peaks in the range. This is a possibility in the future when the political situation in Uganda has returned to normal. Perhaps 'Ruwenzori Diamond 1990'?

At high altitude in the Ruwenzoris

The 'silverback' male gorilla

LCpl Danny Thrasher near exhaustion at the end of the expedition



Cpl Richard Angove, LCpl Jonathan Wood, LCpl Mark Wilkinson resting on a jungle path

EXPEDITION DAKKHINI HIMAL

by Sgt B. J. Barnes

Leader	**Capt Peter J. Holliday**
2IC	**Capt John Wright**
Photographer	**FO Steve Hunt**
Medic	**Sgt Bruce J. Barnes**
IC Equipment	**Cpl Indrabahadur Gurung**
	Cpl Surya Bikram Limbu
	Cpl Kabalsing Rai
	Cpl Machhindrabahadur Rai
	LCpl Mohanbahadur Khamal
	LCpl Chuda Gurung

Expedition Dakkhini Himal (Southern Mountain) was initiated by **Capt Peter Holliday**. The aim was to send a party of men to New Zealand, to improve their mountaineering skills and ultimately climb New Zealand's highest mountain, Mt Cook.

After a relatively smooth start, (everyone turned up on time and no luggage was left behind), we were disappointed to find that the RAF do not indulge in Business Class status on their VC10s but the service provided was very good indeed.

We arrived at Wellington airport a little groggy after the 15 hour flight. We were soon whisked away to Trentham camp where we were met and given a good 'feed' as the Kiwis say. The next couple of days were spent sightseeing and practising our rope techniques for travelling over glaciers.

Christchurch was our next port of call. We travelled by RNZ Air Force shuttle flight and were met by **Capt Terry Kinloch** (NZ Army) at the airport. **Capt Kinloch** was to accompany us on most of the Expedition and was an invaluable asset during the planning stage, arranging transport and accommodation for us. We met two other members of the NZ Army who also would be climbing with us, **Cpl Brent 'Jaggs' Jaggard** and **Cfn Frazer McIntosh**. We quickly settled in and bought all our supplies for the first phase. This phase would take us to the Tasman Glacier which would be our base for snow and ice training and for any climbing we would be attempting. All expedition equipment was checked, individual rucksacks were packed and we were ready to go.

The trip down to Mt Cook and the Tasman Glacier gave an idea of the beautiful countryside New Zealand has to offer. The number of sheep we encountered on the way was phenomenal and they all seemed to have suicidal tendencies as they persistently ran in front of vehicles. Fortunately we didn't hit any but came very close to it.

That night we stayed in the Canterbury Mountaineering Hut in Mt Cook Village and prepared our kit for the flight up the Tasman Glacier the following day. This flight up the 40km glacier was an enormous help considering the amount of food and equipment we had to take with us. The aeroplanes used were Pilatus Porters and the very experienced pilots could land them in some very inhospitable places. The weather was particularly windy and **LCpl Chuda** who had a bird's eye view in the co-pilot's seat, went a strange shade of greenish yellow as the pilot took us through turbulence and a series of dives to reach a flat piece on the ice.

We clambered out of the aircraft grateful for the lift which had taken us almost to the front door of our hut. The Tasman Saddle Hut was to be our home for the next five days so we were eager to get in and grab the best bunks! The glacier had a firm surface and visibility was excellent with glorious sunshine so we roped up and got to the hut within minutes. The remainder of the afternoon was spent practising self arrest and glacier traverse techniques.

Glorious sunshine greeted us the next morning, so after scoops of delicious porridge we spent all day practising crevasse rescues. As this expedition was the first time I had ever done any snow and ice climbing I found the rescue techniques very interesting, however, I thought . . . 'of course crevasses are dangerous but people hardly ever fall down them, do they'? How wrong I was! We found a bottomless crevasse near the hut and practised hauling first packs then volunteers from its icy depths. Good fun but exhausting. Later we practised 'front pointing' out of the crevasses vertical sides. Before we could commence a small snow bridge had to be removed. A volunteer was sought to jump up and down on the fragile snow bridge to collapse it. Immediately our Kiwi friend **'Mac' McIntosh** threw his sanity into question by volunteering but we tied him on before he commenced jumping! It was a bit like someone sawing a branch off a tree whilst sitting on the wrong side of the saw cut. He did a good demolition job and was hauled back to safety none the worse for wear.

That night a backgammon set appeared and the cry of 'you jammy so and so!' every time a double six was thrown resounded throughout the hut. The following day teams of three roped up and set off to attempt some easy routes. Again the day brought sunshine and we all covered a fair distance. **FO Hunt**'s group consisting of **Kabal** and **Surya** reached the summit of Hocstetters Dome some 9,000ft, and then joined **Capt Holliday** and **LCpl Mohan** to climb Mt Aylmer 8,577ft.

Alpine starts are the only way one can cover distances in the mountains. As soon as the sun comes up the snow's structure changes from one of thick crust (easy to walk on) to that of thigh deep slush. A normal Alpine start would be around 0200 hrs or 0300 hrs depending on the distance to be covered. We were all looking forward to our first early morning start when we woke up to the sound of rain and the rumble of an ice avalanche. So a quick recce outside by **Capt Wright** who quickly returned to his pit mumbling 'no way, no way' a few grateful sighs of relief could be heard from various bunks. The day continued with endless games of backgammon. **Mac** continued to play recklessly. Later **Surya**, bored, honed all the ice axes to razor sharpness! The weather didn't improve the next day and boredom drove us out of the hut. We all attempted to get up Hocstetters Dome but had to turn back only part way up as the weather deteriorated, **Capt Holliday** and **FO Hunt** fared no better on Mt Green. Back to the hut, more backgammon; **Mac** cursing the day backgammon was invented.

Our Leaders, **Capt Holliday, Capt Wright** and **FO Hunt** had a conference when the weather forecast predicted more rain etc. The decision to cut our losses and head back down the Tasman Glacier was made. A small team of three set off that afternoon to find a route from the crevassed upper glacier down to the Tasman proper. It was after two hours of stumbling into crevasses in zero visibility that **Capt Holliday**'s group of **Mac** and **Mohan** headed back to the hut. **Capt Holliday** and **Mac** held a competition as to who had fallen down the most crevasses. The loser was to buy the other a crate of beer; both of them lost count! A very bedraggled, wet trio dripped into the warm embrace of the hut; there was no way down that day. The visibility improved the next day so we all set off believing we would reach Ball Hut before nightfall.

At the head of the glacier was a huge snow ramp 'the Nose Dive' which we had to descend. After a controlled stumble down the slope we gathered to take some photos and finished off what coffee we had left. Spirits were high. For those of us who had never been on a glacier before we were innocently unaware of the hard walk back to civilisation. During the descent **Capt Holliday** fell and carved his hand up on his ice axe which **Surya** had sharpened two days before. The remainder of that day was sheer hell. The wind became ferocious, visibility bad and later the rain came with a vengeance. I found myself constantly losing balance on loose blocks of moraine every time a gust of wind blew. After 10 hours of this, we realised we were not going to reach Ball Hut before nightfall. We bivvied out on the moraine about 4km from our destination to get some rest. Just before we got our heads down we heard a noise like machine gun fire, the noise was from a rock fall about a kilometre away, we were all glad to be watching from a distance!

The last 1,000m to the Ball Hut was up a scree slope which was slow going. It was a case of two steps forward and three back, very frustrating! We were welcomed at the Ball Hut by two Japanese who entertained us with their English spoken in a deep bush Australian accent. We got to the pub by 1500 hrs. The nightmare memory of the previous day already fading, we all looked forward to our R and R at Tekapo Motels.

The second phase would take us to Mt Aspiring. As the huts in this area were not as big as the Tasman Saddle Hut it was decided to split into two smaller groups. **Capt Holliday**'s group consisting of **FO Hunt, Kabal, Mohan, Indra, Surya** and **Mac. Capt Wright**'s group was **Capt Kinloch, Jaggs, Machhindra, Chuda** and myself. We were to have first a crack at Mt Aspiring so we set off straight away. We drove our V8 Land-Rover as far as we could up the Matukituki river and started the 10 hour walk to Colin Todd Hut some 20km and 6,000ft higher. **Capt Holliday**'s group was to be based at Liverpool Hut. From here they climbed Mt Barff (7,383ft). The plan was for the two groups to swap locations after four days and attempt the surrounding peaks.

During our trip up the Matukituki river we had another accident. During a river crossing **Capt Wright** fell in and dislocated his finger.

This along with everyone's blisters and general tiredness slowed us down, enough for us not to make it to Colin Todd Hut before nightfall. We bivvied up and set off early next morning for the trip across the glacier to the hut. The journey across the glacier was extremely hot, the danger from sunburn was very great as the ultra violet rays bounced off the ice. Soon Colin Todd Hut came into view and a weary crew of climbers settled down to dry clothes, take pictures of the breathtaking view, do some serious sun bathing and finally relax.

Our attempt on Mt Aspiring started off well. After an Alpine start at 0330 hrs we hurried up the solid ice of Shipowners Ridge. We reached the start of the NW ridge of Aspiring half an hour before sunrise. What we saw then was a magnificent dawn, photographs of which will never do it justice. We started to plan our route up. There were two main routes with the majority favouring the almost direct snow/ice route to the summit and **Capt Wright** wanting to opt for the rocky ridge. The majority's opinion prevailed so off we went in three groups of two. After three hours of fairly steep snow and ice the sun started to do its work on the snow. The summit looked close, only a few steep ice gullies and a rock pitch. **Jaggs** and I went on for a recce. It took us a fair amount of time to reach the rock band just before the summit ridge and it was there the decision to go on or turn back had to be made. **Capt Wright** didn't like the look of the rapidly softening snow and the risk of avalanche, so regretfully we turned back, hoping to try again the next day. Our second attempt on Aspiring was not possible. The weather deteriorated. Books, backgammon and boredom set in. Another day passed sitting in our 6m by 10m hut before we got on the move again. About midday we caught sight of **Capt Holliday**'s party heading across the glacier towards us. We packed our kit and set off to meet them. After a quick exchange of what they had done and what we hadn't done we wished them luck confident that they would reach the summit.

LCp! Mohanbahadur Khamal on the summit of Mt Aspiring

Sgt Bruce Barnes on the summit of Mt Cook 13,000ft

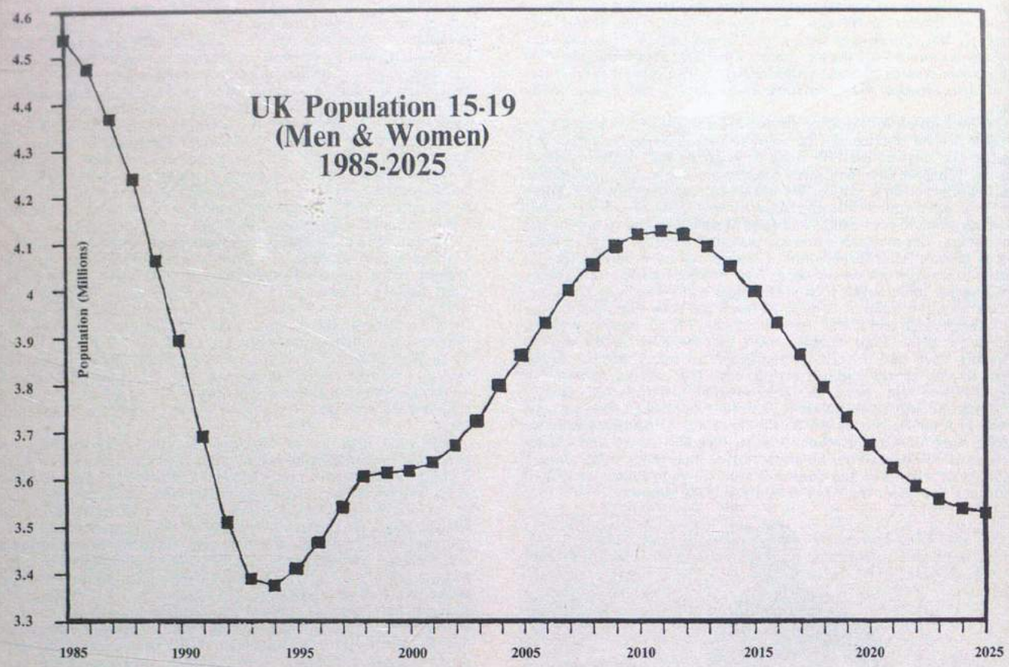
On the way back falling waist deep down crevasses was a regular occurrence. Climbing down the wet, greasy rock slabs to the bottom was a bit hairy, but the best bit was the glissade. 'Yeee Ha!!' was the call as we shot down the last 100m of steep powder snow on our backsides to the rocks below . . . good stuff!! Darkness was fast approaching and by the time we reached the Matukituki river it was too dark to go any further. Brew, bivvie and a good night's kip came next. The casualties in our group were growing. Only **Jaggs** and I were free from blisters, so we went up to Liverpool Hut and the rest went back to Aspiring Hut where the Land-Rover was parked. We stayed overnight, picked up the HF radio that **Capt Holliday** had left for us and made Aspiring Hut in 2 hrs 30 mins the next day . . . a record!

Capt Holliday's group returned that day from a successful ascent of Mt Aspiring. As soon as they arrived the race was on . . . the race to the nearest pub. That weekend was one of our R and R phases and I was fortunate to be hosted by **Jaggs** in Christchurch.

Our final and most demanding phase was to take place at Mt Cook. Once again we split into two groups **Capt Holliday**'s group of **Capt Wright, Indra, Chuda, Mohan, Surya** and **FO Hunt**'s group of **Jaggs, Capt Kinloch, Machhendra, Kabal** and me. **Capt Holliday**'s group were to do a bit more training before attempting Mt Cook so we had the first crack at the famous mountain. We made our base at the Plateau Hut which was an eight hour walk from Ball Hut. The route up to Plateau Hut was via the Haast Ridge of which the guide book says '. . . Steep and often exposed, this is not an easy route and several fatalities have occurred in the past!'. Indeed it was as the book said and we were glad to reach the hut as the wind had reached gale force.

The wind kept up its onslaught for the next two days which prevented us from attempting anything. Our chance came on the third evening. The conditions were perfect, a full moon and not a breath of wind. We set off for the summit at 0200 hrs, the moon was so bright it was almost like daylight. The route we took was via the Linda Glacier which is the easiest way up but also the most dangerous. At the top of the glacier are huge ice cliffs which are constantly avalanching; not a good place from which to admire the scenery. We quickly got off the glacier and soon were standing on Zurbriggens Ridge to watch yet another superb sunrise, only 3,000ft to go. Four rock pitches later we reached the base of a steep ice slope. The exposure was mindblowing, one slip and nothing to stop you for 6,000ft. **Machhendra** and **Kabal** (led by **FO Hunt**), sensed the nearness of the summit and quickly reached the top. **Jaggs** and I met up with them an hour later 45m from the top, they were on there way back down. We congratulated them and began the last pitch. We stepped on to the steep south face (it was best not to look down at this point!), using crampons and ice axes we reached the summit at 1400 hrs. What a view! After a brief rest and photos we headed back down. **Jaggs** and I agreed that we should take our time going back, the last thing we wanted now was an accident. After a few perilous abseils we met up with **Capt Kinloch** who was waiting for us on Zurbriggens Ridge. It was now 19 hours since we set off. Darkness set in and once again we had a full moon to guide us back down. When we reached the Linda Glacier we increased speed to get away from the ominous ice cliffs. We were 1,000ft below when we heard the crack and boom of the avalanche. We looked up and, as if in slow motion, we saw it approaching us. Someone shouted 'run it's coming for us!'. We ran but it did us no good. I was picked up and tossed down the hill like a rag doll. My legs felt as if they had been broken and when I eventually came to a stop, huge ice blocks were rushing past me at a tremendous speed. It was over as quickly as it started, I looked around for **Capt Kinloch** and **Jaggs. Capt Kinloch** was above me running down the hill towards **Jaggs** who was lying very still. **Capt Kinloch** escaped unhurt, I was a bit bruised but **Jaggs** had been hit by a huge ice block and his helmet had caved in, blood was everywhere. We dragged him to relative safety and gave him first aid. **Terry** set off for help. **Capt Kinloch** did a tremendous job soloing back to the hut across a crevasse ridden glacier. Six hours later **Capt Holliday** and **Capt Wright** arrived with a tent and the news that a helicopter would pick us up at first light. **Jaggs** had a nasty wound to his head. If it hadn't been for his helmet he would not have survived. During the night several more avalanches occurred, one covering us with powdered snow from its blast.

Because of the snow conditions **Capt Holliday** made the decision to abandon any further attempts on Mt Cook. As **Jaggs** and I were whisked away by helicopter the remainder started off on the long trek back to Mt Cook village. **Jaggs** was sent to hospital for observation and was released 24 hours later. The mountaineering in New Zealand was over for us. We achieved our aim and the expedition was certainly successful. Soon we would be back on a VC10 heading for Hong Kong. We met a lot of people, made a lot of friends and the hospitality that was given to us by the New Zealand Forces was heartwarming. A special thanks must be given to The Royal New Zealand Signals who administered us during our stay. Dhanyabad!



THE RECRUITING CRISIS

It must be a rare event for a *Wire* article to include a graph, least of all one to show a population trend, but no apology is offered. The above diagram shows a drop in availability of youngsters in the 'recruitable' age group of 1.2 million, or 28%, in the period 1985-1995. The fall in numbers of potential recruits is a most serious crisis, one that has to be understood and acted upon. For many years, recruiting in almost all Royal Signals trades has been relatively easy, but those days are past. Unless we prove to be as good at attracting recruits as we have been at procuring equipment and putting it into service, then the latter will be of little value. The Army is already undermanned, and the Corps will soon be too, unless we succeed in recruiting and retaining soldiers and officers at a time when many other organisations will be competing for their services. The crisis bears upon the TA just as it does upon the Regular Army.

THE AREA RECRUITING SCHEME

The recruiting crisis did not arrive without warning; there has been time to plan to deal with it. It was clear that the recruiting arrangements already established were not up to the task now being faced, and had to be overhauled.

The original Royal Signals Area Recruiting Scheme was solely concerned with the recruitment of Regular soldiers. It involved affiliation of Corps Regular Army major units to areas of the UK for recruiting purposes. For these units to include soldiers from their affiliated areas, the policy was for the first posting of soldiers to be to the units associated with their home districts. This should have assisted the manning of Keep the Army in the Public Eye tour teams, and the provision of 'Satisfied Soldiers'. Unfortunately, The Scheme had major deficiencies in that manning needs rarely matched the Area plan, it did not help officer recruiting, and did not involve the TA at all.

A major overhaul of the Scheme occurred with the implementation of Edition 6 of the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army's) Policy Directive No 2. The PD introduced a chain of command in which the five Brigadiers with Royal Signals commands in the UK were allocated areas of responsibility and units under recruiting and PR 'command' as shown in the diagram opposite. The old Scheme's affiliations were retained to allow development of established relationships, and the TA was included. To help in the provision of information, retired members of the Corps were involved in the Scheme. Like all the Regiments and Corps that recruit throughout the UK, contacts who can help the targetting of effort are much needed.

The areas are of course quite different, geographically, in population and above all in recruiting resources. The contrast between Commander 11 Sig Bde (V's) area comprising North West and Western Districts and Wales, and Commander 12 Sig Bde's bailiwick of Northern Ireland, Eastern District (South) and London District is considerable. While Volunteer units cover much of the country, only N Ireland, North East District and Southern England have substantial Regular Army Corps units. The picture is complicated further by the historical record of soldier recruiting in the North, and officer recruiting in the South. To be sure it is no tidy picture, but the Scheme provides a framework within which effort can be directed.

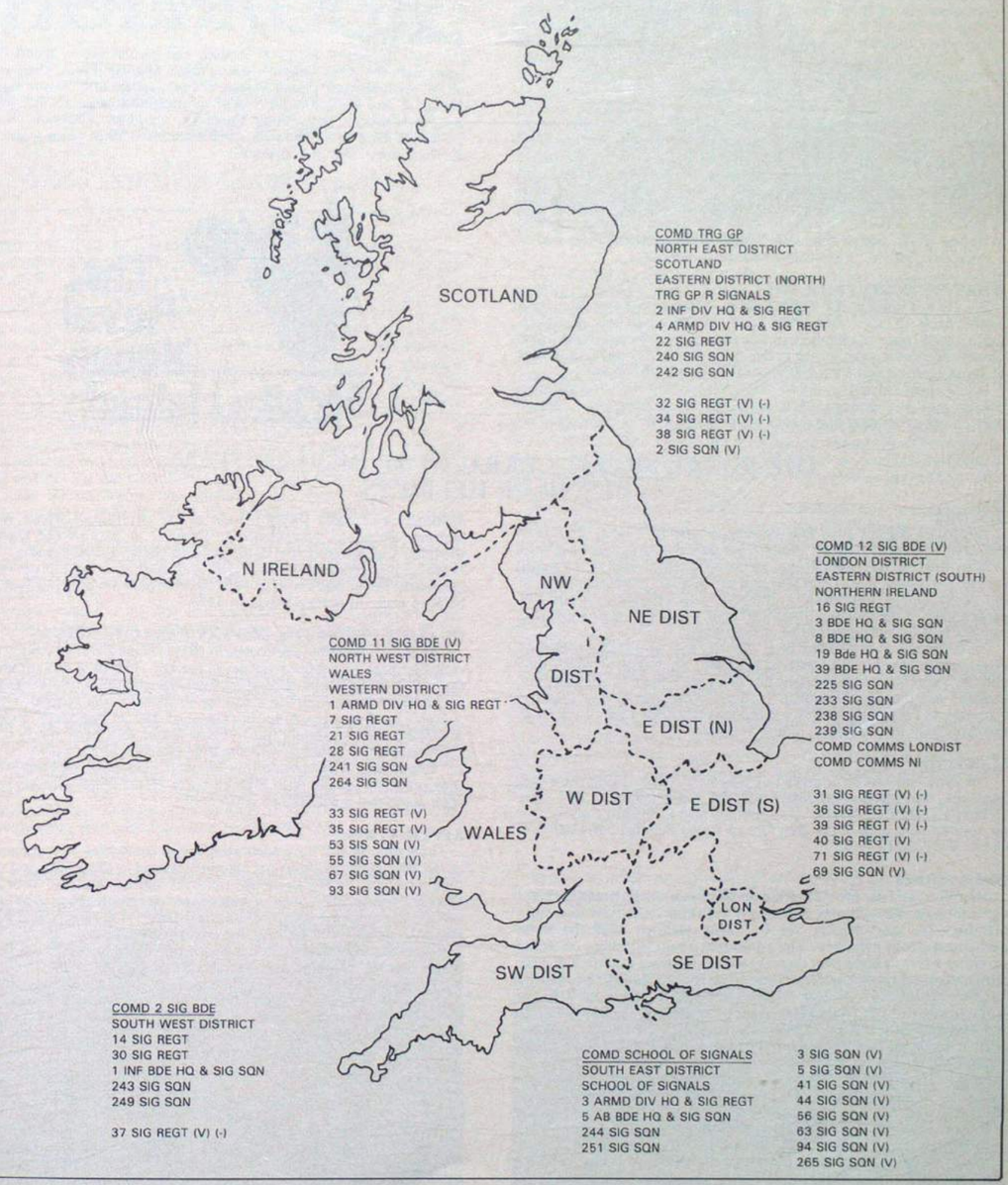
The new ground broken by the revised Scheme in the integration of Regular and Volunteer endeavour is obvious; not immediately apparent though is the function of the Area Brigadiers. To be able to direct recruiting, they have to have information. This concerns population, schools, local attitudes and events, and records of soldiers and officers previously recruited into the Corps. The Brigadiers have to establish relationships with the local representatives of the Directorate of Army Recruiting, with Royal Signals Units not under their normal command, and with the Association. Of course there is no staff established for this purpose, the load is in addition to normal tasks.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The revamping of Royal Signals recruiting arrangements has been timely, but they will need whole hearted support from the Corps to see us through the crisis. At the moment we are doing well in attracting apprentices and juniors, not so well with adults and young soldiers, and with officers. Through these columns you will be informed on how we are doing, but all will not be well unless the measures instituted to help recruiting are implemented fully and with enthusiasm. Only then will the worst effects of the crisis be averted.

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
3 BDE HQ & SIG SQN
8 BDE HQ & SIG SQN
19 Bde HQ & SIG SQN
39 BDE HQ & SIG SQN
225 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 SIS SQN (V)
55 SIG SQN (V)
67 SIG SQN (V)
93 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) (-)

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)

ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAMS?

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM
THE WHITE HELMETS

The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team, 'The White Helmets' is the original and best known motor cycle display team in the world.

All members of the Team are volunteers who have served at least one tour in an operational unit and have achieved Class Two at their trade before they are accepted for a three year tour with the White Helmets. Volunteers undergo a two week selection course, held annually in November at Catterick.

TRAVEL

As well as a very busy programme of performances at County Shows, Galas, Tattoos and Fetes throughout England, Scotland and Wales, the Team travels annually to BAOR to top the bill at the prestigious three day Rhine Army Summer Show. This year the Team also appeared at SHAPE and gave performances in the Isle of Man during TT Week. The climax of the 1988 Season will be the two weeks in Berlin at the Berlin Tattoo. In 1989, the Team is already booked to appear in the Isle of Man, the Rhine Army Summer Show and at a three day festival in the City of Mons in Belgium.

WHAT WE WANT FROM YOU

We are not looking for 'bikies'. Even if you have never been on a motor cycle in your life, you could be the man we are after. Surprisingly, only 11 members of the present, highly successful Team possess licences to take motor cycles onto the public roads, and most of those have passed their test since they joined the Team.

If you enjoy travelling, are fit, keen, reasonably well co-ordinated, possess guts and determination, have an abundance of common sense we guarantee that we will teach you to ride a motor cycle to the high standard we require in the five months between successful completion of the selection course, and the start of the Show Season.

APPLICATION

If you think you are good enough and would like to spend three years with the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team, then apply NOW through your Commanding Officer, to the OIC Royal Signals Manning and Record Office, with a copy addressed to OC Royal Signals Display Team, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS. The next selection course takes place from 4 to 20 November 1988 at Catterick.

The Royal Signals White Helmets

THE ROYAL SIGNALS PARACHUTE DISPLAY TEAM
THE BLUE HELMETS

HISTORY

The Royal Signals Free Fall Parachute Display Team, 'The Blue Helmets' was formed at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate in 1973 by the late **Maj Mike Forge**, who was killed in 1982 in the battle for the Falklands. The Team was one of the first parachute teams in the Army and it was initially established to provide a forum for parachuting in the Corps, concentrating its efforts on training young soldiers and on participation in competitions.

Until January this year the Blue Helmets had operated a part-time display team based in the South of England. The South is awash with military parachute display teams but there were none in the North of England and there is only one in Scotland. The Team is now based at Catterick as part of the RSDT which looks after the Team's affairs in the same way as it does the White Helmets.

MANNING

The Blue Helmets have three full-time posts, these being the Team Sergeant, the Team's Instructor and the Team's Rigger. The Blue Helmet's Team Commander, a captain, is also located at Catterick in an appointment within Training Group Royal Signals, currently that of OC QUICKSILVER.

OPERATIONS

The Blue Helmets provide either an eight man or five man display, depending on the wishes of each Show Organiser. The first four team members for any display are OC Blue Helmets and the three permanent Team members. The additional Team members (to make up either a five or eight man display) are drawn from qualified display parachutists on the strength of other Royal Signals units in North East District (2 Inf Div, 8 and 11 Sig Regts, 210 Sig Sqn and the Apprentices College Harrogate). That's the theory, in practice there is a shortage of qualified Corps parachutists in the District and the Blue Helmets currently rely on spirited members coming from much further afield.

Before the start of the 1988 Show season, 10 members and potential members of the Blue Helmets were sent to Spain to carry out 60 parachute descents as pre-season training. This was to get the individuals to perform as a team. Almost every military parachute display team sets itself a similar pre-season training target.

In its first season operating as part of the RSDT, the Blue Helmets will have given over 50 performances by the end of October. Most displays are given in the North of England but the programme has included twice daily performances at the prestigious Rhine Army Summer Show, an appearance at SHAPE as part of the Queen's Birthday Celebrations and a display for the ITV Programme, 'Get Fresh'. Five members of the Team took part in a HALO course in Denmark. So far bookings for 1989 indicate that the Blue Helmets will be even more in demand than in 1988.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR DISPLAY PARACHUTISTS

The British Parachute Association (BPA) is the governing body that controls sport parachute activities in the UK. The BPA has stipulated that any parachutist must have completed a minimum of 200 descents before he may take part in a display in front of the general public.

Don't be disheartened by this figure of 200. If you have in excess of 100 descents we should like to know about you, particularly if you are interested in jumping with the Blue Helmets in the future. If you are able to attend pre-season training your parachute log book would then read 160 jumps, with a bit of extra effort from you this could soon reach the magic figure 200.

APPLICATIONS

There are, as you have read above, two categories of membership of the Blue Helmets, full-time members posted to the RSDT and part-time members, on the strengths of Royal Signals units in North East District. Obviously to be a permanent member, you must have sufficient experience to become an instructor or a rigger. Right now the Blue Helmets are looking for part-time members.

If you are interested in becoming a part-time member, fill in the Royal Signals Manning and Records Postings Preference Proforma NOW, giving your order of preference for the Royal Signals units in North East District. Remember the more units you nominate, the better your chances of getting one of them. Please send a photo copy of your proforma to OC Royal Signals Display Teams, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS.

THE BLUE HELMETS
ROYAL SIGNALS PARACHUTE DISPLAY TEAM

YOUR PRINTER VISITS

HOLBROOK

The VC Town in
New South Wales
Which bears his Company's name

Holbrook could be considered unique. Many features have been named after winners of the VC, but Holbrook is the only town and Shire, and is situated in the Murray Region of New South Wales, Australia on the Hume Highway between Sydney and Melbourne.

The town was previously named Germanton, and referred to as 'the Germans' place, so perhaps it is not surprising that with the outbreak of World War I, a fiercely patriotic town looked for a new name.

In December 1914, British Submarine Commander, **Lt Norman Douglas Holbrook**, took the small B11 submarine under the minefields guarding the Narrows in the Dardenelles, where he sighted the Turkish battleship, the *Messoudieh*. At periscope depth he moved towards the battleship and well within range fired his torpedoes.

The instant the torpedoes were fired, he was under fire from the shore batteries and under attack from destroyers. The B11 was taken to the bottom for the hazardous trip back through the minefields. At one stage the submarine was forced to stay under water for nine hours—a feat in itself in 1914. The minefields and nets were again negotiated and the B11 ran for its home port.

Once safely in Malta, the crew was able to learn that because of the valour shown, **Norman D. Holbrook** was to receive the Victoria Cross, second in command, **Lt Sydney Willis** the DSO, and all crew members the DSM.

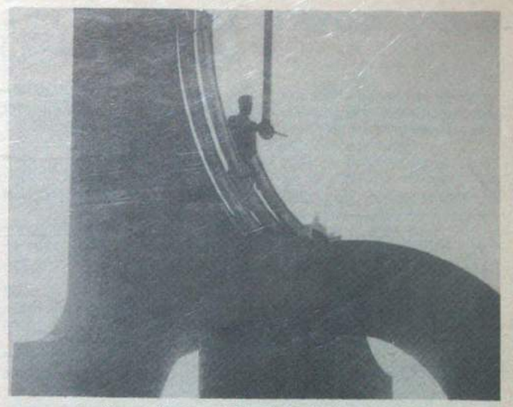
Perhaps because it was the first submarine VC, the first time that a submarine had sunk a battleship, or perhaps it was so early in the war, Holbrook was feted as a hero, and the feat received world publicity.

In Germanton the feat was an answer to a prayer. The name was put forward and accepted. In 1915, Holbrook was officially gazetted as the town's name.

Cdr N. D. Holbrook VC, who died in 1976, was proud of the town which bears his name, visiting there on several occasions. The people warmly welcomed him to their homes and found a deep respect for the man who had provided the township and Shire with its name.

After World War I **Cdr Norman D. Holbrook VC**, son of the founder of Holbrook & Son Ltd, printers of *The Wire*, was Chairman of the printing company for many years until 1976.

Below: Robert Matthews shaking hands with Capt Peter D Briggs



Above: Statue of Cdr N. D. Holbrook VC

To commemorate Holbrook's joint 150th anniversary and Australia's bicentennial celebrations the town witnessed its greatest display of ceremony, entertainment and community involvement throughout its history.

The highlight and special bicentennial project was the opening of a new park, the centrepiece being a large brick built edifice which features a full size statue of **Cdr Holbrook VC** standing behind his periscope.

Robert Matthews, present Chairman of Holbrook's, the printers of our magazine, with his wife **Jean**, accompanied by the Company Secretary **Mrs Joy Luckett** and her husband **Leon** were official guests at the unveiling ceremony undertaken by Australian Parliament Member for Albury, **Ian Glachan**, and they were also invited to attend the other numerous social events.

During the celebrations Holbrook town played host to the members of the RAN Submarine Squadron from HMAS *Platypus*, Sydney, and their visit and official ceremony involving the Squadron and the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Band on the Saturday morning proved an outstanding feature of the weekend celebrations.

Under the command of **Capt Peter D. Briggs AM RAN** the RAN Submarine Squadron exercised the right of The Freedom of Entry to the Shire of Holbrook, which was granted in 1986, and proudly marched through the town to salute **Cllr Thomas J. Montague** the Shire President and other dignitaries.

Other organised weekend activities included a Street Procession which involved over 50 entries of floats, horse drawn vehicles, vintage and veteran cars, community groups, bands and dancers.

The Bicentennial Fancy Dress Ball was a tremendous success with over 500 people dressed in an amazing assortment of costumes, who crowded into the three marquees set up outside the Shire Hall, where dinner was served, and into the Shire Hall where they were entertained by the Royal Australian Navy Dance Band.

Not every publisher has a printer with a town named after the founder's hero son!

Robert Matthews served with the 1st Bucks Bn of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and was captured at Hazebrouck. He later escaped from Camp E75 in Poland and was liberated by the 3rd American Army.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY DAYS OF LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATING IN ROYAL SIGNALS

(This interesting article comes to us from ex WO2 B. J. Jordan who served in the Corps from 1927-1949. Those who remember him will be pleased to know that he is still 'going strong' at 79 years of age!).

This is entirely from memory. I have had no help from official sources. So expect a few discrepancies.

In April 1936, I was posted from Egypt Signals to the Army Wireless Station at Aldershot. This was situated at the junction of Queen's Avenue and Princess Avenue, opposite the Garrison Cinema. Both have long since disappeared.

Posted with me also from Egypt were **Ben Hurley**, a good sportsman, **Lofty Carver** (later commissioned) and **Gilles**, a fitter.

The station personnel were billeted in 2nd Div Lines, Mons Barracks. Most of us had cycles for to-ing and fro-ing.

The station sergeant was **Sgt Bishop**, who spent most of his time looking after the flower garden which faced Queen's Avenue. There was also a vegetable patch at the rear.

Amongst the staff there were **LCpl Dyamond, LCpl W. Macken** (ex RSM Jubblepore) with whom I am still in contact; **LCpl Robinson** (ex Colonel), **Darkie Williams**, a corps fast bowler.

Cpl Chamberlain ran the operating side of the station. Everything was very friendly and all went along smoothly.

We did shift duties and the station operated for about 18 hours each day. If there were no snags, the last shift finished about 2300 hrs.

Hand speed morse was used, and the station worked, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jubblepore (later Delhi) and Cairo.

Each station usually had two periods of passing traffic. The last one at night was Cairo and it always came in loud and clear. The aerials used were dipoles. The transmitter was about 1KW and built by the Signals Experimental Establishment at Christchurch, Hants.

Hong Kong had a similar but more modern set. We had several different receivers over the years. An RAF model, an AR88 and later the HRO with its several ranges of receiver coils that plugged in at the bottom. I have an HRO at present which I listen around on.

There were no teleprinters in those days and urgent messages had to be telephoned to War Office. Traffic received up to 1600 hrs was taken up to London by a Despatch Rider. Later traffic up to 2100 hrs was posted in the last post of the day, and in those days always arrived at War Office by first post. Traffic, non-urgent, received later, was enveloped and given to the guard on a Waterloo train at Aldershot at 0900 hrs and collected from the guard at the other end.

Telephoning urgent messages to War Office after normal office hours, had it's amusing side. The prescribed number was usually answered by the hall porter who often informed us that the Chief Clerk was taking his dog for a walk.

The Chief Clerk was not up on the phonetic alphabet and when reading back coded messages always used food items eg 'E' was egg, and 'S' was sausage.

The Aldershot Wireless Station was listed in the 'Berne Registry' with all our frequencies and call signs. 'ABY' was our basic sign but the call signs changed with frequency or station called (I am a bit hazy about this).

In those days we suffered a certain amount of interference by jamming and other stations straying from their frequencies.

A very powerful Italian station was a big culprit, pushing out an R99 signal. In such cases we had a telephone number to ring and someone at that end sorted it out.

I was fortunate enough to get sent on a six month teleprinter course at Leeds Central PO. Teleprinters were not in use in the army then but staff were being trained for the future.

Early September 1939, **LCpl Machen** and I were nearing the end of our 12 years service and went on a Ministry of Labour Courses to fit us for civvy street.

We were scarcely there a week when War was declared and we had to rejoin our unit. At Aldershot Wireless Station I was greeted effusively by the IPC, **Lt Beattie** (ex RSM), who said, 'Thank heavens you are here, we have two teleprinters and you are the only teleprinter operator on the station'. 'Big Deal'. But, it didn't last long as ATS were posted in. The first two in civilian clothes for some time before their uniforms arrived.

I was switched to Wireless duties. I remember one very patriotic girl who enlisted very early as a teleprinter operator, and got fed up during the 'Phoney War' and bought herself out.

During the lull, a receiver station was built at Oakhanger, Hants and a transmitter at Pirbright. The RAF have these now. I went over to Oakhanger as LCpl I/C the advance party with buckets and mops to clean the station up. I did though finish up Sergeant in Charge.

I was up at the War Office for a few weeks, down in the 'Citadel'.

Then to Englefield Green, 4 W/T Sqn to train operators in High Speed Morse.

I was very friendly with a **Sgt Chatfield (Tando)** ex Singapore and an ex-boy. We worked together and boozed together, going around the rural areas on our pushbikes.

I won't go into the war years. Suffice to say I was in Ceylon as RQMS.

The present Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**, was a major then. I finished my last few months with the Signal School attached to the Armoured Corps at Bovington, Dorest.

*(The **Lt Beattie** mentioned in this article was **Lt A. H. Beattie** who was appointed an Inspector of Permanent Communications (IPC) on 5 April 1936. IPCs later became Technical Maintenance Officers (TMOs) and eventually Technical Officers Telecommunications (TOTs). **Lt Beattie** continued to serve at Aldershot and when he died in 1953 in his 45th year of service he held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His son **Lt Col B. A. Beattie** also served in the Corps from 1936 to 1975 and still helps us out on a part-time basis in RHQ).*

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THE 'BARROW' GIRLS MEET AGAIN

In 1960 the first troop of WRAC to be employed with 1 Sqn, 14 Sig Regt at Gloucester, was formed. These girls were for employment in various trades at the Comcan Centre, which was situated approximately eight miles from Robinswood Barracks. The centre was affectionately known as the 'Barrow'.

Amongst the first girls to be posted in were the ones shown in our photograph namely from left to right. **Ptes Judy Pearson, Joyce Manning, WLCpl Denise Longley, Ptes Dot Miller, Jean Mellow** and **Una Mackay.**

Four of these girls have kept in touch throughout the years, but have never been together since 1962. **Joyce Manning**, whilst in Singapore married a New Zealander and naturally settled there. The others went their way and are now all married with families.

Left to Right: Pte Judy Pearson, Pte Joyce Manning, WLCpl Denise Longley, Pte Dot Miller, Pte Jean Mellow and Pte Una Mackay

As **Joyce** and her husband **Neil Tucker** were coming back to the UK, a reunion was planned to be held in London on 22 July. Husbands were invited to attend. We all met and stayed in the Swallow International Hotel.

A grand evening was had by all, with plenty of stories and memories exchanged.

We now show the ladies 26 years on, with **Maj Eric Webster**, who in 1962 was one of the Sergeants in charge of their WRAC shift at the 'Barrow'.

Left to Right: Denise Webster (nee Longley), Jean Pinkney (nee Mellow), Eric Webster, Judy Morton (nee Pearson) and Joyce Tucker (nee Manning)

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THE EDITOR'S ANGLE

THE PUBLISHING CYCLE

- Six issues of *The Wire* are published annually and these are distributed in January, March, May, July, September and November.
- Contributions are required to reach the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding publication ie:
  - 12 February for the March issue
  - 12 April for the May issue
  - 12 June for the July issue
  - 12 August for the September issue
  - 12 October for the November issue
- Please despatch all matters bearing on *The Wire* by first class mail.

A POSSIBLE STANDING PROCEDURE, INCLUDING GUIDE LINES FOR UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS

Note: W Day is despatch date—three days prior to that defined in 'The Publishing Cycle' above.

W DAY -60

- Seek a steer from your commanding officer/second-in-command/adjutant. What significant occasions are to arise during the period you are to cover? These could for example be:
  - Operations/Exercises
  - Unusual commitments
  - Change of command or rotation of important posts (eg RSM)
  - Important visitors
  - Significant sporting events
  - Presentation of medals/colours
- Make a plan on content and ensure that a reliable photographer:

a. takes photographs of every event you plan to cover,
b. processes the film in a sensible time frame to permit you to select the best photographs and ensure they are properly captioned.

W DAY -60 TO W DAY -10

- Encourage others to write up events for you. Our Corps magazine provides the opportunity for all ranks to reflect the enjoyment and satisfaction of participation and achievement. Edit and correct expression rather than attempting to do it all yourself.
- Target on events rather than input from Squadrons/Troops which can be repetitive by covering the same regimental activities.
- Do not overlook wives. Their contribution to some unit activities can be considerable and they in common with all components of a unit, like to see efforts recognised in print, supported by photographs.

W DAY -10 TO W DAY -4

- Assemble all your material including photographs. Read with a critical eye for accuracy.
- Pass for typing.

W DAY -2

- Check the typing—or better still seek the assistance of another person who you know will have a critical eye for accuracy, good English and spelling.
- It is helpful to annotate contributions to show where photographs connect with the written words. Check captions carefully; spelling names incorrectly is a bad error.

W DAY

- Despatch notes 'first class post' to The Editor, *The Wire*.
- Never delay for photographs. It is acceptable that these follow within seven days. Always ensure they are properly protected.

W DAY +7 TO W DAY +14

- Check 'printers proofs' received from The Editor for accuracy. Up-date if necessary. Return these proofs with the minimum of delay by first class post.

IMPORTANT POINTERS

- There has never been—nor will be—any obligation for every component of the Corps to make a contribution to each issue of *The Wire*. If there really is very little worth reporting, carry forward the input to the next issue. No restriction is placed on the size of the contribution. Use common sense—and aim for quality rather than quantity of content.
- Situations will arise when it is necessary for The Editor to shorten a contribution or defer it to a later issue. *The Wire* is printed in a multiple of four pages eg 100, 112 or 116 pages. This imposes restraints.
- Any photograph of any size—colour or black and white—can be processed into our Corps magazine. Contrast is an important factor and the very high quality 'PR Style' black and white gloss photographs should be sought for any important occasion eg a visit by our Colonel-in-Chief. With this qualification, any competent photographer with a good camera should be able to take photographs of sufficiently good quality for incorporation into *The Wire*.

TYPING THE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Type with 'double spacing';
- Do not type places and names in capital letters.
- Ranks and employments should be abbreviated. (See Joint Service Staff Manual, JSP 101 and SOinC's Policy Directive No 1).
- If you use Christian names, decorations should be omitted.

ie Maj John Smith—correct
Maj J. T. Smith MBE—correct
Maj John Smith MBE—incorrect

- Number all sheets, and photographs.
- Number all photographs lightly with a soft pencil or ball point pen—but not felt tip. Photographs are easily damaged and degraded.
- Captions should be typed on a separate sheet(s) and related to the number photographs.

We publish a letter on page 453 from a Mr B. MacDonald in which he makes an appeal that, as editor, I heartily endorse.—Editor.

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TAILPIECE

CONGRATULATIONS—36 SIG REGT(V)

Recently, Transport Minister **Peter Bottomley** set off for a drive on the M25 to see for himself how bad some of our drivers really are. He spotted an army convoy cruising along. 'Perfect formation. Rule book stopping distances'. Later, taking refreshment at South Mimms service station, he was joined by the army convoy—from 36 Sig Regt(V)!

– Movements –

Officers

AUGUST 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj C. N. Armitage	238 Sig Sqn
Lt Col P. R. Brewis	LIVE OAK
Capt D. Brough	8 Sig Regt
Maj J. F. Burnage	BDLS Canada
Lt R. M. Butlin	11 Sig Regt
Lt C. M. Clark	22 Sig Regt
Capt R. F. Clay	225 Sig Sqn
Capt J. Coffey	36 Sig Regt (V)
Maj C. M. Cox	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt P. R. Ford	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj L. G. Fraser	MOD
Lt Col L. G. French	CO 31 Sig Regt (V)
Lt R. J. Healey	13 Sig Regt
Capt S. J. Herstell	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Capt J. S. Holman	21 Sig Regt
Maj B. J. Hughes	School of Signals
Maj R. M. Limb	HQ AFCENT
Lt N. P. Longley	13 Sig Regt
Capt J. MacDonald	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt S. J. May	8 Sig Regt
Maj J. McIntyre	22 Sig Regt
Capt R. W. McLaren	HQ DCN
Capt N. P. Metcalfe	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
AMaj M. Nicol	9 Sig Regt
Capt R. C. Papworth	264 Sig Sqn
Capt M. J. Perry	30 Sig Regt
Capt M. J. Radford	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt J. D. Rayment	Live Oak
Maj P. Richards	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. Robertshaw	HQ Scotland
Maj M. J. Sinton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt D. W. Somerville	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt I. G. Standen	259 Sig Sqn
AMaj M. F. Tucker	3 Armd Div and HQ & Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Walker	13 Sig Regt
Capt D. G. Wills	MOD

SEPTEMBER 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col M. J. P. Collins	The Berlin Sig Regt
Lt Col J. S. Doddy	OGGWL (A) (PE) (AE)
Lt Col C. R. Harper	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col A. J. Raper	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col M. W. H. Roberts	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col R. Saville	Shape Signal Group
Lt Col R. C. A. Thwaites	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
Lt Col J. C. Young	8 Sig Regt
Maj R. W. Blum	DEF ADP Trg Centre
Maj R. G. L. Hill	School of Signals
Maj R. C. Hood	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Maj M. J. Jefferis	School of Signals
Maj G. P. Maddren	STANOC Centre
Maj B. P. Pettifer	Electronics Branch REME
Maj R. G. Stokes	HQ NORTHAG Staff
Maj V. G. Strivens	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Maj A. Sugdon	36 Sig Regt (V)
Maj D. G. Wood	HQ EDIST R&L Staff
Capt J. E. Body	School of Signals
Capt J. R. C. Bunce	School of Signals
Capt R. M. D. Collins	39 Sig Regt (V)
Capt I. A. J. Condie	School of Signals
Capt B. T. Dearman	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt E. M. Flint	30 Sig Regt
Capt J. W. Hornby	School of Signals
LMaj R. N. Howes	SANGCOM
Capt S. N. Jackson	School of Signals
Capt C. B. Keegan	HQ BR Forces Belize
Capt R. W. Mansfield	JCUFI
Capt A. Paterson	School of Signals
Capt A. J. Rock	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt I. W. R. Seraph	HQ Rheindahlen Gar
Capt P. O. Shawyer	School of Signals
AMaj D. O. Smith	Electronic Warfare Op Sup Unit
Capt D. A. Sullivan	School of Signals
AMaj P. C. J. Taylor	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt K. P. Thornber	School of Signals
Capt A. J. Wood	School of Signals
Capt N. R. N. Wood	11 Sig Regt
Lt G. D. Anderson	22 Sig Regt
Lt A. D. R. Broad	School of Signals
Lt A. D. E. Cameron	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt T. J. Carmichael	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt P. J. Davies	School of Signals
Lt M. A. Finneran	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt A. J. Fletcher	11 Sig Regt
Lt N. J. Makepeace	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt A. K. Munday	HQ 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt M. Nott	3 PARA
Lt C. S. K. Paterson	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt P. V. Pople	School of Signals
Lt J. A. F. Smith	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt N. A. Walker	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt F. E. R. Whichelo	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt T. J. S. Allen	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt J. E. Ayers	RMAS
2Lt P. Bosher	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt A. J. Botterill	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt J. J. Cole	HQ 5 Airborne Bde & Sig Sqn
2Lt P. S. Cubbin	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt D. Drinkhall	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt P. A. Harlow	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt A. W. Price	RMAS
2Lt A. S. Saddington	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt S. J. P. Spiers	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt R. A. E. Tarling	RMAS

WOs and SNCOs

AUGUST 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 P. D. Dring	8 Sig Regt
WO1 E. D. Feasey	HQ 2 Sig Bde
WO1 T. N. O'Brien	8 Sig Regt
WO1 L. O. Rowland-Jones	11 Sig Regt
AWO1 P. Aitken	14 Sig Regt
AWO1 D. B. Barlow	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
AWO1 F. Byrne	38 CTT (Worcs)
AWO1 N. J. Cawthra	36 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 (YofS) H. Elkan	School of Signals
AWO1 J. R. McKenzie	71 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 (YofS) D. M. Taylor	8 Sig Regt
AWO1 M. Thomson	MOD DSS (AD)
AWO1 I. M. Urquhart	40 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 G. W. Barbert	HQ BAOR
WO2 (YofS) M. R. Bell	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
AWO2 (YofS) P. R. Barrow	249 Sig Sqn
AWO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 (FofS) R. Nicholson	HQ 4 Sig Gp
AWO2 (YofS) R. M. Pemberton	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) C. A. Plumb	7 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) C. D. Pugh	HQ BAOR
AWO2 P. D. Stemmer	8 Sig Regt
AWO2 R. Walker	Southampton UOTC
AWO2 S. T. Wise	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt T. Anderson	9 Sig Regt
SSgt P. S. Collinson	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) M. G. Cooper	Belize Defence Force
SSgt D. W. Forsyth	School of Signals
SSgt D. M. Matthews	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) F. McCubbin	31 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt W. R. Sweeting	16 Sig Regt
SSgt M. H. Yates	55 Sig Sqn (V)
ASSgt D. Cawkwell	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt T. J. Clancy	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt I. R. Dobson	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt S. Gill	641 Sig Tp
ASSgt T. J. Keates	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. J. O'Brien	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt F. Vaughan	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. K. Alcock	7 Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Bailey	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt H. J. Bevan	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Brockman	14 Sig Regt
Sgt G. J. Carpanini	633 Sig Tp
Sgt P. Clarkson	School of Signals
Sgt G. Corrigan	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. A. Disney	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Ellis	5 Hy Regt
Sgt M. Farquhar	13 Sig Regt
Sgt K. A. Fisher	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. E. Freeman	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt C. N. Garrill	13 Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. Halkett	QG Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. W. Howarth	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt K. B. John	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Lawrence	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. G. M. McDonald	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Y. Nicoll	632 Sig Tp
Sgt S. Oliver	9 Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Perry	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. C. Pederick	22 Sig Regt
Sgt P. C. Pollington	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. B. Reid	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt K. J. Reynolds	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Stanton	11 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Stratton	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. Walker	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. C. Webb	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt K. L. P. Wilkinson	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Wray	251 Sig Sqn
ASgt G. S. H. Doughty	19 Fd Regt
ASgt J. W. Marsden	633 Sig Tp
ASgt J. K. Martin	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt P. R. Oatley	ACIO Crewe
ASgt D. M. Rennison	238 Sig Sqn
ASgt S. D. Windus	HQ NORTHAG Staff (BAE)

SEPTEMBER 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 C. J. Bell	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) R. C. Gamble	8 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) D. J. Keig	16 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) D. Wright	School of Signals
WO2 J. T. Boyd	16 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) S. P. Cadywould	School of Signals
WO2 C. S. Carveth	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison
WO2 (YofS) K. J. Doyle	14 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) K. S. Smith	School of Signals
WO2 (FofS) P. F. Wood	QG Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) D. O. Allen	16 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. G. P. Bohanan	11 Sig Regt
AWO2 S. J. Dunlin	QG Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) R. P. Moren	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 (FofS) C. B. Peck	641 Sig Tp
AWO2 (FofS) R. Pullan	School of Signals
AWO2 J. Sharkey	11 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) M. P. Wedge	REME Electronic Branch

Movements continued

SEPTEMBER 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
SSgt J. Bellion	14 Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. Belshaw	21 Sig Regt
SSgt H. T. Dillon	11 Sig Regt
SSgt G. C. Hailstone	8 Sig Regt
SSgt J. F. Hardy	25 CTT (Penicuik)
SSgt J. H. Jackson	HQ 12 Sig Bde (V)
SSgt W. R. Neish	HQ AFNorth (BAE)
ASSgt D. W. Forbes	233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt A. P. Gillard	39 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt N. A. Killen	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. L. Mellish	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt W. Ogden	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Baird	8 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Beverley	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. J. Boyle	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Bright	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. H. Deeley	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Dorian	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)
Sgt G. D. Duffy	2 Queens
Sgt J. Gower	Electronic Warfare Op Sp Unit
Sgt J. J. Gray	RM CTC Lympstone
Sgt D. P. Henderson	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. Johnson	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt P. J. Keating	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt J. H. Lewis	16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Ludlam	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. E. Maddison	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt F. S. Newell	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Owen	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. C. Porter	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. M. Redmond	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt W. J. Redstone	ACIO Exeter
Sgt S. J. Ryder	633 Sig Tp
Sgt A. E. A. Shepherd	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Stapleton	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Swinton	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. Wild	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. York	Electronic Warfare Op Sp Unit
ASgt P. W. Bagnall	233 Sig Sqn
ASgt R. A. Ball	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. G. Burrows	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
ASgt K. Fudge	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt A. P. Gaston	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt G. E. Maycock	11 Sig Regt
ASgt N. E. Phillips	1 R Hamps
ASgt T. Skee	JSSU FI
ASgt S. P. Welding	30 Sig Regt

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1988:

14 Sig Regt	£ 500.00
Catterick Garrison Church Fund	£ 244.57
St Thomas' Church, Wildenrath	£ 80.91
251 Sig Sqn—In memory of LCpl G. Lambie	£ 73.48
Maj A. M. Lynch	£ 20.00
In memory of Brig R. F. Maynard MBE	£ 10.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
S. P. Halsey	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous	£ 121.73
	£1,065.69

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1988:

From the estate of Lt Col R. W. P. Brader	£250.00
233 Sig Sqn	£100.00
E. J. Etheridge Esq	£ 40.00
Signals Wing RMA Sandhurst	£ 25.00
Aberdeen and District RSA	£ 20.00
In memory of Maj F. M. Handsley	£ 15.00
Mrs W. Munday	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous	£ 3.00
	£458.00

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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 40 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

Bishop—ex Cpl R. G. Bishop—died 5 April 1988.
Brown—ex Sig W. R. Brown (2576163)—served 1938-46—died June 1988.
Downs—WO2 T. Downs—served 1939-64—died 2 May 1988.
Dymond—Maj F. Dymond—died 18 March 1988.
Forbes—Cpl J. Forbes—died 24 July 1988.
Fraser—LSgt N. A. L. Frazer—served 1939-45—died August 1988.
Ganner—Capt A. Ganner—died 1. April 1988.
Handsley—Maj F. M. Handsley—served 1940-72—died 10 August 1988.
Hesketh—SSgt H. Hesketh—served 1934-58—died 12 April 1988.
Hodges—WO2 R. E. Hodges—served 1922-58—died 12 May 1988.
Houghton—Cpl P. G. Houghton—served 1931—died 19 May 1988.
Jarvis—CQMS W. Jarvis—served 1915—died 29 March 1988.
Johnson—Col F. P. Johnson OBE—served 1933-62—died 4 September 1988.
Lloyd—Lt Col K. F. Lloyd—served 1945-75 (Hon Col 1983)—died 16 July 1988.
Maynard—Brig R. F. Maynard MBE—died 15 July 1988.
Mitchell—Maj R. G. Mitchell—served 1933-73—died 9 May 1988.
Murdoch—ex Sgt J. Murdoch—served 1951-75—died 16 May 1988.
Orton—Maj P. E. Orton—served 1924-1958—died 21 June 1988.
Peachell—Lt Col W. A. Peachell OBE—died 8 May 1988.
Potesta—Maj W. Potesta—served 1928-61—died 10 July 1988.
Roberts—WO1 J. K. Roberts—died 18 May 1988.
Sanders—Capt (Hon Maj) C. O. Sanders—died 5 May 1988.
Searle—Sgt R. J. Searle—died 1 April 1988.
Stanley—SSgt E. T. Stanley—died 4 April 1988.
Stead—Lt Col A. C. R. Stead OBE—served 1932-59—died 9 July 1988.
Stevenson—ex Sig K. R. Stevenson (ex POW)—died 16 June 1988.
Steward—Mrs V. Steward widow of Maj Gen R. H. R. Steward CB, CBE, DSO, MC—died 13 July 1988.
Strutt—WO2 R. A. Strutt—served 1944-69—died 21 February 1988.
Tulloch—ex Sgt W. J. C. Tulloch—served 1935-45—died 7 July 1988.
Veness—ex Cpl F. Veness MBE—served 1924-36—died 9 July 1988.
Walton—Lt Col G. Walton—served 1934-46 (Hon Lt Col 1953)—died July 1988.
Winter—Sgt F. A. Winter—served 1925- —died 10 April 1988.

OBITUARIES

Brader. Lt Col R. W. P. Brader. Bill Brader died on 28 December 1987 after five years of intense pain which he bore with great fortitude.

He was born on 11 November 1917 and enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals at Nottingham on 23 December 1935. After two years Home Service **Bill** was posted to Palestine (Palforce Signals) where he remained until shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. In August 1939 he moved down to Kenya, serving first with Force HQ Signals East Africa and then with a variety of Brigade and Divisional Signals Units in the region until mid-1943. He spent another year at Royal Signals Base Depot and School, MEF before returning to the UK on 5 May 1944 for the first time in seven years.

On 6 May 1944 **Bill** was appointed to a Commission in Royal Signals. For the next two years he attended various courses in the UK and was then posted to 7 Armd Div Sig Regt in BAOR for another two years. He returned to UK for a two year appointment at the School of Signals and then in July 1950 he was off again to the Middle East, this time for a three year tour with Egypt Command Signal Regt (later 3 L of C Sig Regt). This was followed by three years with Western Comd Sig Regt at Chester in the rank of Major.

From 1956 to 1961 **Bill** was seconded to Ghana Signals and then in September 1961 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assumed command of 16 Sig Regt in BAOR and it was he who introduced the ceremonial lances which remain a notable feature of the Regiment today.

Bill's next appointment was Chief Instructor, Royal Signals Wing, SME Chatham followed by a short spell at Catterick before his retirement in 1967.

However, retirement did not come easily to **Bill** and in 1969 he bowed once again to the call of Africa and took a post with Anglo-American Copper Company in Zambia as Personnel Officer. Five years later, in 1974, he returned to live in England but continued to work as a Recruiting Officer for the Company, travelling widely in UK and overseas to interview likely candidates. He finally retired in 1976.

Bill will be remembered by his colleagues for his warm nature, his loyalty to all who worked with and for him and his great enthusiasm in everything he undertook.

Bill was a great family man and is sadly missed by his wife **Joan**, his daughter **Janet** and his two grandchildren **Joanne** and **Richard** to all of whom we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

Buesnel—ex WO1 M. C. Buesnel—It is with regret that Jersey Branch report the death of **ex WO1 (RSM) Maurice Charles (Monty) Buesnel** on 24 June 1988.

Monty had been a keen and hard working member of the Jersey Branch and was Honorary Secretary for four years until illness forced him to retire. He will be sadly missed by members. We extend sympathy to his widow **Mary**.

Carroll—ex Cpl Robbie Carroll—ASgt Paul Engering currently serving at the Army School of Mechanical Transport writes: Many members and ex-members of the Corps will be saddened to hear that **Robbie Carroll** lost his life in the Piper Alpha tragedy on 7 July 1988. He was employed on the platform as a safety officer.

Robbie enlisted, as a junior, on 1 April 1970. He served first in 229 Sig Sqn in Berlin and then in 4 Div Sig Regt before joining the White Helmets in 1975. He remained with the team for three years and earned the reputation of being a talented trick specialist. His last unit was 16 Sig Regt. During his time there he met his wife, **Jennette Presley**. He also spent six months on detachment to the Falkland Islands, after hostilities, when the Radio Relay chain was being set up. He left the Corps in 1984.

His many friends offer their sincere condolences to his widow **Jennette** and their daughter **Ashleigh** who live in Peterculter, Aberdeen.

Orton—Maj P. E. Orton—It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Maj P. E. Orton** on 21 June 1988 after a short illness.

Maj Orton or **'Pip'**, as he was affectionately called by all who knew him, was attached in one way or another to the Royal Corps of Signals for 44 years. He joined up as a regular soldier in March 1924 and at the outbreak of war held the rank of CSM having served one tour of duty in China and two in Egypt. He was commissioned in 1940, shortly after his evacuation from Dunkirk with the BEF, and after some three and a half years with Scottish Command Signals, he was transferred to 17 Air Formation Signals and proceeded to France with that unit following the invasion. On two occasions during his service he was Mentioned in Despatches.

After the war, **Pip** enlisted in the TA and, as OC 1 Sqn was one of the most popular and respected officers of 5 AA(M) Sig Regt. During this time, he was largely responsible for the formation of the Newcastle Branch of the Association and, on completion of his TA service, he continued to help and support the branch in his capacity as President. When forced to relinquish this position because of his wife's failing health and his own advancing years, he still managed to attend the odd meeting and was a regular attender at the Catterick reunion until three years ago. His experience and wise counsel will be sadly missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his son **John** and daughter **Mary** and to their children.

Webb—Lt Col Richard Webb—was born on 19 September 1907 at Naini Tal, near the borders of India, China and Nepal, where his father, **Col A. E. Webb** was serving in the Indian Army.

He was the grandson of **Col Richard F. Webb** of Donnington Hall, Hereford and great grandson of both **Frederick**, 16th Lord Saye and Sele and **Richard Webb**, High Sheriff of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester.

In 1910 he returned to England with his sisters for education and due to the outbreak of the First World War was not to see his parents for 15 years while they stayed on in India.

He went to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in 1926, where he won various cups and medals for cross-country running and boxing.

In 1928 he was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals at Catterick Camp in Yorkshire, from where he was sent out to India in 1931 to serve in Kohat on the North West Frontier. In 1932 he was at Upper Topa, Rawlpindi and in 1933/34 Jubbulpore and Meerut.

He enjoyed all sports, was a skilled polo player and enjoyed riding in point-to-points and walking in the foothills of the Himalayas.

In 1936 he was posted back to England to serve with 3 Hussars at Tidworth.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was adjutant to the Wessex Signal Territorials in Exeter.

In 1940 he returned to Catterick and on 7 May 1941 married **Iris Knowles** at Richmond, Yorkshire. They lived at Catterick until moving to Blandford in 1942. Their son **Richard** was born on 26 July 1943 at Reigate, Surrey.

The same year he was posted to Morpeth, on the Isle of Wight, where he commanded 38 Divisional Signals.

In 1944 he returned to India to Palam Airfield, Delhi, to work with 3 Indian Air Formation Signals, and in 1945 moved to Akyab, Burma with 4 Indian Air Formation Signals.

After VE Day he returned to England to help organise the communications for the Victory Parade in London but immediately returned to the Far East, this time with his family.

In 1947 he took command of Burma Signals, and stayed on as a Military Adviser after Independence. This was an appointment he much enjoyed, living in the lovely hill station of Maymyo and later Mingaladon, Rangoon. He was then posted to 19 Air Formation Signals at Changi, Singapore.

1950 saw **Lt Col R. Webb** back in England as Commanding Officer of the Depot Regt then based at Pocklington, Yorks.

In 1952 he moved the whole Regiment down to Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, Devon.

His final posting was to NATO at the Allied Air Forces, Central Europe at Fontainebleau, France.

In 1954 he retired to Dartmouth, Devon where he lived for the rest of his life.

His active retirement included many charitable works for the local community. He helped found the local amenity society, the Dartmonth and Kingswear Society. He was President of the Dartmouth branch of St John Ambulance for nearly 20 years, and was appointed an Officer Brother of the Order of St John.

He died on 19 June 1988 aged 80 and leaves a widow **Iris**, son **Richard** and stepson **Justin Knowles**. All who knew him will feel a sense of loss. We extend our sympathy to his family.

PERSONAL

Mr Harry Bayly, an ex Corps boxer, would like to hear from anyone who fought with him in the 1947, 8th Army Sig Regt team. Please write to 43 St Edward's Gardens, Eggbuckland, Plymouth, Devon. Readers will be interested to know that his son. **Sgt R. J. B. Bayly** is serving in the Corps and is currently stationed with 1 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt.

Ex Sig A. D. Margolis is interested in contacting former members of 74 Operating Section 1943-45 (12 Corps Signals, then TAC HQ 2nd Army). Please write to Little Croft, Tudwick Hall Farm Road, nr Tiptree, Essex CO5 0SJ or Tel: 0621-816507 or 01-481-2110 during office hours.

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 publicaiion. All other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertisement managers, Combined Service Publications, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

REUNIONS

APPRENTICES COLLEGE HARROGATE
SCOTT SQUADRON REUNION

On the weekend of 26/27 November 1988 there will be a reunion of Ex Apprentices and Permanent Staff who served in Scott Sqn during the period 1978-80.

The reunion is to be held at the Apprentices College.

For further details please write to: Second in Command, Scott Sqn, Army Apprentices College, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HE3 2SE.

READING BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Reading Branch, Royal Signals Association, will be held at the Sea Cadets' Headquarters, Brock Barracks, Reading on Saturday 29 October 1988. Tickets £11.50. Time 1915 hrs for 2000 hrs. Apply **Pauline Tennant**, Tel: 0734 861130.

WEST LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the West London Branch, Royal Signals Association, will be held on Friday 4 November 1988, at the Osterley Hotel, Osterley, 1930 hrs for 2000 hrs. Tickets £14. Apply **Mr Cliff Wood**, Tel: 07842 41279.

A CAROL SERVICE AT ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN, ROCHESTER ROW, WESTMINSTER

An evening Service of Lessons and Carols, at which the Corps Band will play, is to take place in the Parish Church of St Stephen with St John, Westminster, on Tuesday 20 December 1988 at 1800 hrs.

It is hoped that members of the Corps and their families especially those serving in London TA Regiments, Association Branches, Chelsea Pensioners and Yeoman Warders, will attend this Service in the Corps affiliated London Church. Light refreshments will be available in the nearby Church Hall after the Service for all those who are able to stay.

Those wishing to attend the Service are asked to inform Regimental Headquarters so that seats may be reserved and refreshments ordered. Since the overall capacity of the Church is 350, allocations will be made on a first come, first served, basis.

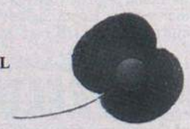
7TH ARMOURED DIVISION OFFICERS' CLUB
1988 ANNUAL DINNER

This year's Dinner will be held on Wednesday 26 October in the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly—at 1900 for 1930 hrs. Members and their guests will be welcomed by the President, **Maj Gen G. P. B. Roberts CB DSO MC** and the speaker will be **Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge KCB** a former commander of 4th Armoured Brigade and now GOC 1st British Corps.

Club membership stands at 244, with Dinner attendances around 90. Any officer who served in 7th Armoured Division during or after the 1939-45 War is eligible to join and is encouraged to seek further information from Honorary Secretary **Maj C. F. Milner MC**, at Mill Lane, Radford Inkberrow, Worcester WR7 4LP.

As is usual, a display of 'Rattery' will be a feature of the occasion, this time with special contributions from the Royal Artillery, thanks to **Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB** and the Black Rats in BAOR.

POPPY APPEAL



Collectors are urgently needed. House-to-house collections start on 31 October. Poppy Day is 12 November. If you are willing to give your time, even for an hour—please dial—100 and ask for 'Freephone Poppy Appeal'.

Remembrance Day is on Sunday 13 November

SITUATIONS VACANT

RETIRED OFFICER VACANCY
REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

A vacancy exists for an RO3 at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. The duties are concerned with regimental domestic affairs and include welfare and benevolence, financial management, secretary to a variety of committees and Staff Officer to the Colonels Commandant.

Applicants, from any Arm, should have attained the rank of Major or above during their service.

Conditions of Service are as laid down in AGA1, Vol 2, Chapter 40 but exceptionally applications will also be considered from those who left the service more than five years ago. Some additional allowances may be negotiated.

Applications should be sent in the first instance to the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD; Tel: 01-930-4466, Ext 8242.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER VACANCY
REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

A vacancy will occur at the end of September 1989 in the Association Records Section at RHQ Royal Signals for an Administrative Officer (AO). The job specification is as follows:-

Day to day correspondence with 66 local branches of the Royal Signals Association (currently includes 8 Affiliated Unit OCA Branches); Maintaining Association Membership Records (currently kept on card index filing system but expected to go on to computer); Administration and Control of annual reunions at Blandford (May) and Catterick (June) each year; Administration and Control of Annual Branch Representatives Meeting (April) each year; Correspondence to retiring Officers and Other Ranks on leaving the Corps informing them of the affairs of the Association and putting them in touch with local branches near to their home address; Preparing Agenda and Minutes for the Association Central Committee Meetings (twice yearly), Branch Representatives Meeting (April) and Annual General Meeting (June) and finally; Maintaining the file on the Corps Church (St Stephen with St John Westminster) including Carol Services and Memorial Services.

Applications should be sent to The Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Typing skills are helpful but not essential. Living in the commuter belt around London would be advantageous.

CURATORIAL OFFICER GRADE E
ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM, BLANDFORD

A vacancy for a Curatorial Officer Grade E in the Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset, will exist and the successful candidate would be expected to take up the appointment in December 1988.

The appointment is concerned with the administration of the Museum and its staff with responsiblity to the Chairman and Committee for all aspects connected with the daily running of the Museum, new works, financial control and budgetting, and liaison and negotiations with outside agencies. There is also specific responsibility for the Corps Museum Library, Archives and Photographic Collection.

Previous experience in the relevant field, or service in the Royal Signals would be an advantage.

Applications to: **Miss G. McCann**, Ministry of Defence, CM (A) 2 (5) 1, Room 244, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY. Telephone No 01 430 6820, with copies to: Regimental Secretary, Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD and Deputy Director, Royal Signals Museum, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Further information may be obtained from: Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals or the Deputy Director, Royal Signals Museum, London District Military or 01 930 4466, Extension 8240. Blandford Military or 0258 52581, Extension 2413.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you are leaving the services you should consider the wide range of employment possibilities available through The Corps of Commissionaires—Office Management, Building Management, Technical Trades, Security, Warehouse.

Contact 01-353 1125 for further information and address of your nearest office.

2372624 SIG H. G. FRASER

Miss E. Crichton TD, Chairman, The Royal British Legion St George's (Hanover Square) Branch took a photograph of the late **Sig Fraser**'s grave in the Commonwealth War Cemetery near Syracuse during a recent visit to Sicily. She will be happy to let anyone who knew **Sig Fraser** have a copy of this. Please write to the Editor.

*(Some readers will remember **Miss Elizabeth Crichton**, a life member of the Association, from her days on the staff at RHQ).*

LETTERS

From: B. Macdonald

Dear Sir,

During my service days I enjoyed reading *The Wire*, and now as an old comrade I still like to keep abreast of things via its columns, and the unit reports from 'the front'.

However—as an old comrade—I am finding it increasingly difficult to de-cipher the initials, abbreviations, and acronyms, used in the text, despite my being ex OKC LofC MELF. So chaps, a little more plain language please, then maybe I'll know what you're really up to!

Yours sincerely
B. Macdonald

2 Denbigh Drive
Shaw
Oldham OL2 7EQ

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

The Royal Signals Games Club provides assistance to Corps glider and hang glider pilots with financial aid towards meeting flying and competition expenses. If you fly gliders either as a pilot under training, or as solo pilot you may qualify for a grant towards your expenses. Royal Signals pilots should forward their individual claims for grants from the Corps Games Club for the period December 1987 to November 1988 to: **Maj S. G. Falla** Royal Signals, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Claims should arrive during the month of November and no later than 1 December, claims received after 1 December will not be processed.

The following personal and flying details are required to support your claim:-

- Full name, unit and address of claimant.
- Fly fees paid in the period, less any sum received from other sources in respect of these fees.
- Name and address of Club or Clubs.
- Number of launches flown in 1988.
- Results of competitions, or badge attempts (if any).
- Competition expenses.
- Qualifications held (if any).
- Details of claimant's UK bank; account number, bank sorting code and name and address of bank.

Do not be deterred from making a claim because you have 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

INTRODUCTION

Operations continue apace. The tragic loss of four Corps soldiers in the Lisburn van bomb outrage temporarily set the unit back but forming the 3rd Inf Bde kept everyone busy. The devasting loss of **Michael Winkler, Graham Lambie, Billy Paterson, Mark Clavey** and their friends **Derek Green** and **Ian Metcalfe** still hurts many. Their names are honoured on a splendid brass plaque which graces the entrance to the new Waterside Inn which was opened by **Capt Lambie** on 22 July 1988.

The loss of the border to 3 Bde has concentrated our efforts in other areas. This report will thus have a slight sporting flavour to it, as might it well for the unit has been hugely successful of late.

ORIENTEERING

A report by WO2 (FofS) Baugh

Since finishing fourth last October in the Corps Minor Unit Championships the Squad has gone from strength to strength, so much so that for the NI Orienteering Championship on 9 April, 15 runners represented the Squadron, (see photo). The Squadron team under the direction of **WO2 (FofS) 'Noddy' Baugh** had to get six runners back on three courses in good times. The qualifying runners were **FofS Baugh, SSgt Martin Leighfield, Sgts Sam Harris, Joe Tester, Capt Alec Paterson** and **Lt Ian Millar**. The team finished runners-up out of 11 teams, to 655 Sqn AAC overall but it was important to beat our major area rivals 233 Sig Sqn (NI) and 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn convincingly.

Qualifying for the UKLF Competition in early May in Scarborough was a good boost and the selection of six runners from the Squad was difficult. **Sgt Sam (Pay Wallah) Harris** made selection easier by volunteering to the FofS to try playing in goal for his football team. He broke his leg on his debut and solved selection problems. He then returned on holiday to Greece (in May) and Ibiza (in June). Who says running the unit account is a bad job.

At Scarborough the following represented the unit: **Capt Alec Paterson, Lt Ian Millar, FofS Baugh, SSgt Martin Leighfield, Sgt Dave Cumming, Cpls Rick Ball, Nick Stapleton** and **Andy Dawson**. Another creditable performance by the team led them to finishing 10th out of 15 Minor unit teams.

Due to operational commitments the team selection for the Army Championships at Sennybridge was limited. **Capt Alec Paterson, Sgt Dave Cumming** and **Cpl Nick Stapleton** qualified for time off and turned in good performances and even though they did not win we await the overall results with anticipation.

And now, our greatest success on the sporting front.

HOCKEY REPORT

by WO2 (YofS) Coburn

In the quarter finals of the Army Cup Minor Units Hockey we were drawn at home against Depot RCT from Aldershot. The visitors arrived on Friday 29 January 1988. They settled in well and trained that evening. Saturday 30 January arrived, 1400 hrs push back. The weather was glorious. The match was a see-saw event but no one was able to score. At half time the heavens opened as only they can do in Londonderry. At the end of full time and extra time the rain was still falling and still no score. Swimming would have been a better event at this stage.

We went to penalty flicks. It was quite exciting as some of the more inexperienced players did not relish this finish. In the end we won 8—6. A sad way to finish but someone had to win and we did.

The semi-finals were drawn and we were lucky again to be drawn out first. Another home game for us. We were drawn against Bulford Logistics. After a lot of frantic phone calls between the Army Hockey Sec and Bulford Logistics they were told the game must be played by 12 March 1988.

We played on Friday 11 March 1988. This was another exciting match, they came at us like a steam train. Our strength has always been in defence, we can soak up all the pressure and then turn it on ourselves. Once again it was 0—0 at halftime and we had been defending for most of the 35 minutes.

The second half was a good period for us, we attacked from the whistle and after about 10 minutes we were rewarded with a goal. At this point the game was finished for Bulford Logistics, as they now proceeded to argue with themselves and query every decision by the umpires. We ran out 1—0 winners, but it was a comfortable win for us.

Unit Team—NI Orienteering Championships—9 April 1988
Runners Up
Sgt Dave Cumming (M Tp), Sgt 'Taff' Winkler (Deceased) (QM), Capt Alex Paterson (Comms), WO2 (FofS) 'Noddy' Baugh (M Tp), Capt Brian Williams (AO), Capt Ian Stenning (Bde), Lt Ian Millar (Bde), SSgt Martin Leighfield (M Tp), Sgt Joe Tester (Bde), Cpl Andy Dawson (M Tp), WO2 (FofS) Al McCartney (3 Tp), Sgt Sam Harris RAPC (SHQ), LCpl Paul Cleavin (Comms Tp), Sig Paul Drummond (M Tp) and Cpl Nick Stapleton (M Tp)

The next step was The Final on grass at Aldershot. We were in the big time at last. We were on our way to Aldershot: We had a problem with training on grass as we have no grass pitches in NI. We contacted Depot RCT and they said they would love to look after us for the three days we would be in England. They also arranged a match on grass for us as practice for the big day.

Tuesday 29 March arrived, we had three players and one reserve down with a serious stomach bug and this was before we arrived at Aldergrove airport.

Cpl 'Dusty' Miller and **Cpl 'Mapreader' Branson** went by car. They transported the kit and assured us they would be in Aldershot by 1400 hrs 29 March 1988. We arrived at Heathrow, true to form no transport to pick us up. Our OC and reserve player, a shrewd man at the best of times decided to hire a fleet of cars to get us to Aldershot. This hurdle was crossed and we all arrived safely. We got settled in and 1330 arrived, time to prepare for the practice match. Where was **'Dusty' Miller** and all our kit? We had to go cap in hand to the RCT and borrow the kit to play in. The practice match was a very good idea as we had about five players who had never played on grass before. At half time **'Dusty'** and **'Mapreader'** arrived in Aldershot via Reading and Oxford (twice). We ran out comfortable 2—0 winners. We believed that our opponents Depot Prince of Wales Div, the current champions would be much harder. Depot RCT now decided to treat us to after match festivities. As we were playing in the cup final the next day we decided to take it easy on the booze. We arranged to meet in Aldershot at 2000 hrs to have a social drink and look after each other.

The RCT were very good hosts, by the time the bar closed at 1800 hrs everybody had disappeared their various ways. At 2000 hrs we all met in the Royal Trafalgar.

The final started at 1100 hrs. Our opponents were young, fit and hungry for a win. True to form **Ron Coburn** and **Pete Harrison** did a startling job in defence. POW after about 25 minutes into the game were having a rest and trying to think of some way past our full backs when a hit out by **Ron Coburn** was picked up by **Capt 'Berty' McGerty** who outsprinted their defence and hit a scorcher of a shot into the roof of the opponents net, 1—0 to us.

The second half we were really up against it. We rarely ventured out of our half at all. POW were awarded a penalty flick in the last 10 minutes. We were quite happy with this as our goal keeper **Dusty** had only conceded 5 goals in 20 matches. True to form **Dusty** saved the day. As you can guess the last five minutes were really exciting with **Coburn** and **Harrison** and **Millar** playing their hearts out in defence. The whistle went, we were Army Champions.

The whole team had played their hearts out. We were presented with the cup and our medals and we then retired to the bar to carry on the movement.

Our OC who had to return to Londonderry the same day decided it would be prudent to take the Cup back with him as this was the week after the incident of the Calcutta Cup.

It was nice for 8 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn to get out of NI for a three day break. Thanks must also go to Depot RCT who arranged everything for us.

Last but not least thanks must go to the men we left back in NI who had to work even harder to allow us to be away for the three days. To date the hockey team are: NI Minor Unit Cup Holders, NI Hockey League Winners (Major and Minor Units) and Army Champions (Minor Units).

RSSAM 1988
SQN TEAM MEMBERS
SSgt Benny Bennett
SSgt Martin Leighfield
Sgt Dave Cumming
Cpl (Now Sgt) Alan Speight RPC
Cpl Jim Alger
LCpl Billy Dodd RPC

The 1988 Corps shoot held at Bulford brought the Squadron some surprisingly good results. We finished fourth overall in the Minor Units Cup having missed out on a possible 28 points due to the team being stood down on 16 June 1988.

The SMG team of **SSgt Martin Leighfield, Sgt Dave Cummings** and **LCpl Billy Dodd** maintained the high standard and tradition of SMG shooting within the Squadron. They won the Minor Unit SMG Match 9 with individual scores which put some Major Units to shame! The rifle team just failed to win any of the rifle competitions but they managed to achieve good top placings in nearly all of the matches.

A final note to applaud **LCpl (I know everyone at Bisley) Dodd**'s excellent shooting abilities in becoming the best non Royal Signals shot for the second year running. He was chased and in some instances beaten, by a good supportive team performance.

L-R: Cpl Alan Speight, Sgt David Cumming, LCpl Bill Dodd, SSgt Martin Leighfield and Cpl Jim Alger

LCpl Bill Dodd receiving his individual trophy from SOinC

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We say goodbye to **Capt A. Paterson** posted to ORLO at The School of Signals and **WO1 (RSM) K. Hudson** posted to 38 Sig Regt (V).

Hello to **Lt C. J. Thackray** as OC Comms Tp and to **WO1 (RSM) N. B. Dean** (our new RSM).

A FINAL WORD

For once this does not come from the Foreman of Signals direct though he is directly responsible. Any Unit who is interested in a Signalman Technician should approach this Unit. The man concerned succeeded in burning out the entire electrics in the OC's brand new Golf GTI. He is to remain anonymous but we can tell you he has been unanimously awarded the Thompson-Hughes Prize for the soldier who has done the most to further his own career prospects.

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

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Hugh Hancock**
2IC	**Capt Nigel Wood**
AO	**Capt Ivan Patrick RE**
OC Comms Tp	**Capt Steve Felton**
OC TM Tp	**Lt Alistair Beard**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Fred Payet**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Chris Aitken**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Tony McMahon**
MTWO	**WO2 Neil Sinclair RCT**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Alan Fiddes**

COMMS TROOP

The month of June began with elements of Comms Tp providing security for the Royal Signals cocktail party. The most memorable part of the day being the rain, oh, and **LCpl 'Wilf, advanced driver' Williams** trying to reverse a Landrover. The lessons of Hillsborough learnt, the local 'warlord' **Capt Steve Felton** decided that an Infantry training day was called for—'Infantry' being a cleverly disguised way of saying 'run up that hill with this kit on'. The undoubted star of the show was **Sgt Rod 'Cuddles' Oakley** with some of his carefully chosen lines, for instance, 'take the grenade, pull your finger out and throw the pin'. Meanwhile, **LCpl Pete 'Petal' Clark** and **Sig 'Spike' Harding** paid a visit to 7/10 UDR, our favourite UDR Battalion and their fearsome, awe-inspiring Signal Instructor, **CSgt Dill**. The comms trial was progressing well until a 12 year old threw a plastic bottle at our seasoned veterans. **LCpl Clark** made a snap decision, 'I have enough results to work on, let's go home'.

Sig Chris Nelson has had the kind of arrival in a new unit that most of us only dream of. He has discovered an extremely fast, if novel, way to leap into the limelight. It goes something like this:

Being the naturally friendly chap that he is, **Sig Nelson** offered to stand in for the Brigade Watchkeeper. Surprised by a ring on the security gate, our hero fumbles for the button to admit the unexpected visitor. Now anyone can confuse a small white switch with a large red button marked Mortar Alarm, it's an easy mistake to make. Well, **Capt Clive Stevens**, the Brigade Watchkeeper, had trouble seeing Nelson's point of view at 0130 hrs on a Monday morning. He had considerably more trouble convincing the Garrison Guard that they weren't being mortared.

Totally unconnected with the above incident, Syscon has now moved from its old home in the Brigade Headquarters to share accommodation with the remainder of the Squadron. **Cpl Dan Locker** discovered the weight of a steel cabinet the hard way when he took the lead up a flight of stairs whilst his two 'friends' at the rear succeeded in pinning him to a wall. Well, our **Dan** is always quick on the uptake and this time was no exception. When the next cabinet was due to move next door he ensured he was at the back. This time he was full of confidence as he began to ascend the stairs. The problem with making **Cpls George Best** and **Ian Curtis** laugh is that they let go of whatever they're holding. On this occasion it happened to be a 5ft steel cabinet. Poor old **Dan**.

TM TROOP

At last the panic to get 3 Bde up and running has subsided, and they have been cast adrift to fend for themselves. Like all well planned military operations, this one went without a hitch!

The next 'small job' was to help all our mates in Comms Tp move Syscon and Commcen to a new building. **Cpl Gerry Dear** took the bull by the horns and almost single handedly completed the entire radio fit. The TE Techs, namely **Sgt B. J. 'Its not really Jerome' Finister** and **Cpl Gordon Mundie** were not to be outdone, and they carried out an equally sterling job in the Commcen, despite the constant moving of goal posts by **WO2 (YofS) Chris Aitken. SSgt Mick Couston** would like to say a special thank you to PSA for two smashing little swimming pools out at the back—he's still looking for the two cable pits which should also be in that area. **LCpl Tim Jones** and **Sig Andy Dutton** have indented for snorkels, wet suits and underwater jointing kits!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, an intrepid little band, ably led (well sort of guided) by **Cpl Taff Parry**, has started installing a new intercom. While the others work, **LCpl Vince McNaught** has been perfecting his cable drum juggling act. **LCpls 'Mac' McGowan** and **'Stig' Richards** are busy organising the jointing and terminating and **Cpl John Whitty** is organising the tea.

Notes would not be complete without mention of that guru of Hele Tele, **SSgt Mick Partridge**. He believes he has turned the corner now, as it has worked on two consecutive occasions! Mind you, things did look somewhat ominous this morning, when the Long Range Ground Station was seen smoking. **Cpls Mick Crook** and **Andy Sinclair** have been put under starter's orders to fix it.

MT TROOP

Like all good MTs this one has been hard at it again. **Cpl Thomo Thompson** has been refusing every detail, as ever. 'What do you think they pay us for; driving cars?'. Things are so bad that **Sgt Andy Henwood** has had to drive a big truck all by himself.

LCpl Olney and **WPte Bernie Cowan** have carried on, oblivious to it all, in their competition to see who can fit in the most leave.

46 Comd Wksps were in need of an experienced driver, but had to settle for **Dvr Steve Aggett**. At least he doesn't have to wear smart trousers and shoes like the rest of us.

SPORT

We have had a consistent time on the sports field of late. Consistently bad!

Having won the Northern Ireland athletics championships we set out full of confidence for the UK finals. Everyone knew it was going to be a bad day when the coach and 400m hurdle man, **Cpl Lyndon Chappell** fell over and came last. **LCpl 'Touche' Hadfield** had a mean triple jump and narrowly failed to reach the sand! Not to be outdone, **LCpl Vince McNaught** put in a fine 800m to come next to last. **Cpl John Ramsdale** concentrated more in his 1,500m and made no mistake, comfortably taking final place. It wasn't all gloomy news. **LCpl Guy Burton** had an easy time winning both 100m and 200m and **Cpl** (soon to be Sgt) **Dave Keevash** proved too strong for the opposition in the discus and shot. **Cpl Shakespeare** improved the position still further with a fine win in the high jump. At the end of the day the competition was decided on the final relay which, not surprisingly, considering a day of such bad luck, went against us. Still there's always next year.

The disappointment of the athletics team seems nothing when compared with the performance of the cricket XI. They too qualified for the UK finals, which only heralded the start of their decline. After fielding really well to hold the opposition to 215 for 7 off 40 overs, it was now our heroes turn to bat. The skipper, **Lt Beard** led the way with a gritty 20 runs, next came the RSM **WO1 Mal Boor**—0. Needing support the skipper called for the experience of the AO, **Capt Ivan Patrick**—0. And so it went on. 37 all out with the extras being the second highest score (9), on a score card that included 8 ducks. Back to the drawing board skipper. **Cpl Rob Hood** was reflective as ever, 'If we'd batted first, I could have caught the 1400 hrs train home!'.

LCpl Guy Burton makes winning the 200m look easy

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Goodbye to **Cpl Bob Booth** on his posting to Berlin, **Sig 'Spike' Harding** on his move to 14 Sig Regt, on promotion as well! **Sig Clive Hallett** has decided enough is enough and opted for civvy street. **Cpl Chris Sands** has been really lucky and ended up in Colchester—the Signal Squadron not the jail. **Sgt John Buckingham** has joined the exodus and taken up life as a married man in 30 Sig Regt. **LCpl Shane Ackers** was made an offer he couldn't refuse: Catterick. Stop laughing. Finally 3 Bde has swallowed up more of our lads, this time **LCpls George Green** and **John Chivers**.

Hello to **LCpls Chris Howarth** and **Sig 'BFT and CFT' Oldfield**. Two more tame techs **Cpls Colin Burgess** and **Gordon Donald**. We now have that rare animal, an Ops Clerk, welcome to **Sig Johnson**. Finally, hello **Sgt Carl Shead** and wife, **Marion**, and to that man **Sgt Jerome Finister**.

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

SHQ

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj G. D. Corbet**
2IC	**Capt I. D. Westerman**
AO	**Capt J. Hindle**
AAO	**Lt F. M. E. Thomas WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) P. McD Watson**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) D. R. Henderson**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) R. Coleman**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 28 July **Maj Peter Parfitt** handed over the reins of the Squadron to **Maj Gerry Corbet**. **Maj Parfitt** is leaving these sunny shores (please excuse the poetic license!) for a new career in the world of computers. We wish both him and **Amanda** all the very best for the future in their new venture. In the same breath we should also welcome **Maj Corbet** and his wife **Anne** to the Squadron and hope they both have an enjoyable tour.

LS AND GC PRESENTATIONS

One of the first actions carried out by **Maj Corbet**, minutes after taking command, was to attend the presentation of two LS and GC medals. **SSgt Dave Gilbert** and **Cpl 'Ginge' Parker** were presented with their medals by the CLF NI **Maj Gen R. J. Hodges OBE**, in the Peake Inn. The ceremony was markd by the consumption of an ale or two.

VISIT OF THE CORPS BAND

During their visit to the Province, back in June, the Corps Band took some time to put on a performance for the handicapped children of Fleming Fulton School. The school is a local one on the outskirts of Belfast and has been 'adopted' by the Squadron. The concert was an immense success and provided the band with the most enthusiastic audience they are likely to encounter. Their programme was carefuly chosen to allow the children to participate—which they did with vigour!

The Corps Band entertain the children of Fleming Fulton School

ADMIN TROOP
24 HOUR SPONSORED RUN

A sponsored run in aid of Arthritis Care took place on the Garrison athletics track between 0900 hrs Friday 29 and 0900 hrs Saturday 30 July.

The plan was for 12 runners each to do four 30 minute sessions around the track. Not exactly exciting, but it made the event a lot easier to control.

The run was started by the OC **Maj Corbet** with **SSgt Dave Gilbert** being the first runner accompanied for the first 15 minutes by the Tp OC **Capt Hindle**. It didn't take too long for the runners to realise that the main problem was to remain interested during the 30 minute session. This was overcome by either using a personal hi-fi or, if you were that way inclined trying to record the most laps completed in the 30 minute period. That honour went to **Sig Bob Goldsmith** and **LCpl Andy Criag** both completing 20 laps (5 miles).

All 12 runners completed the four sessions with nothing worse than sore feet and stiff legs.

By 0900 hrs on Saturday a total of 910 laps had been completed, which amounted to 227.5 miles. The total money raised when collected will be over £1,000, all proceeds going to Arthritis Care. Not bad for a day's work.

The runners were; **SSgts Dave Gilbert, Tom Swanney, Mrs Janice Gilbert, Cpls Paul Fleming, Mick Joyce, LCpls Andy Craig, Dave Gillespie, Sig 'Wardy' Ward, Vinny Hewitt, Pete Starrs, Tony Riley** and **Bob Goldsmith**.

A special thanks must go to **John Jolly, Dave Tribbeck, Mal Pryke** and **LCpl Stu Phillips** for providing the x-rated entertainment around 0100 hrs.

Thanks to everyone who contributed and helped make this such a successful event.

INDIA TROOP

Major changes are about to take place in India Troop. Victor Section is soon to be evicted from its luxurious, purpose built accommodation and moved into the shadowy twilight world of Whisky Section. The move will cause mixed feelings: it will be a shame to abandon the Victor building, but the move will bring the troop together under one roof for the first time, which is sure to help both administration and morale.

We are also due to receive some new equipment, the installation and testing of which will keep the Troop very busy between now and Christmas, (if it arrives: the last consignment of equipment ended up in the Garrison MFO store for a month while Transport and Movements branches throughout the country frantically looked for it).

The Troop social life achieved a cultural low recently with a mixed rugby match closely followed by a games night. The results were as follows:

Rugby:	Victor—20	Whisky—20
Games Night:	Victor—nearly won	Whisky—won

A good time was had by all, as they say, though it is fair to say that most participants in the Games Night are only guessing that they enjoyed it, relying for evidence on the way that they felt the next day.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following congratulations are in order: to **WO2 (YofS) Bob Smith, Sgt Baz Roberts, LCpls Paul Prosser, Mark 'Divis' Armstrong** and **'Mo' Morris** on promotion; to **Cpl Ritchie Brown** on his marriage to **Judy** and to **LCpl 'Beef' Berger** and **Cindy** on the birth of their first child and on **Beef's** promotion.

WELCOMES

Welcome to **Capt David (Des) Vardy** who takes over as Troop Commander, **WO2 (YofS) Bob Smith** who takes over Whisky Section, **LCpl 'Smeds' Smedley, Sig Stan Cummings, 'Barry' Benson, 'Bamber' Saunders** and his family and **Pte Karen Cooper.**

FAREWELLS

Farewell to **Capt Edward Flint** and his dog, Bobby, without whom troop cleaning will be much easier, to **Cpl 'Jabba' Ker** and **LCpl 'Beef' Berger**.

TECH TROOP

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt A. G. Hooley**
FofS	**WO2 W. E. Hughes**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt G. Hailstone (SSgt R. Maddison)**
IC Systems	**SSgt W. Sanderson**
IC FRT	**SSgt C. Abbott (SSgt W. Ironside)**
IC Radio	**Sgt G. Webb**
IC Telemech	**Sgt D Boyle (Sgt Bagnall)**
R & I	**Sgt Shorter and Mr John O'Neill**

SYSTEMS

System controlling Brinton can reduce mere mortals to gibbering wrecks. Why else would a normally sane, quiet, likeable chap like **Cpl Martin Flather** grab at the chance to go and clean vehicles in 4 Div? We wish him well. What else has happened? Oh Yes, we congratulate **'Dicky' Dickinson** on his promotion to Corporal. We believe this is because the TOT is sick of reducing him to Signalman and wants to reduce him to a different rank! Welcome to **Cpls White** and **Owen** (shame . . . they seem like nice lads!) and also to **WLCpl 'Charly' Longmuir. (SSgt Sanderson** says we'll have to watch him! We're worried about **SSgt Sanderson**).

FRT SECTION

This stands for Forward Repair Team. We used to be known as Area Repair Teams or ARTs. We suggested a compromise . . . Forward Area Repair Teams but **SSgt Abbott** said no. Still, he goes soon. We could try again when **SSgt Ironside** arrives. Life is still the same in the Province. Just one big round of parties and fetes. **Dave Menice** is leaving us soon for civvy street. That's another party I suppose.

RADIO SECTION

Now this is a hard working section. We were that busy that the only person we could afford to let go on summer camp was our leader, **Sgt George Webb!** That got rid of him and left that well known leader of men/future General **Cpl Mal Pryke** in charge. Leading a high powered team of Lance Corporals (three to be precise) was a difficult and challenging task but **Mal** succeeded. The responsibility, however, was so great it made his normally fair hair go bleach blonde in streaks. (At least that was the excuse he gave **SSgt Hailstone**). Never mind **Mal** . . . some people liked it.

TELEMECH SECTION

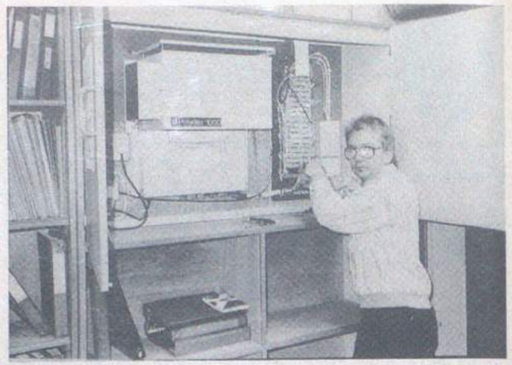
Life in our hut goes on . . . and on . . . and on. We are also known as: Professional Office Movers Inc. When you've moved into your office (a plan you've known about for at least a year!) you complain to us bitterly that neither your telephone nor your intercomm work any more and that your television antenna doesn't seem to reach. We then drop what we were doing and correct these faults. Simple. Leader amongst men at this simple craft is one **Sig Sid Steel.** To help him he has **LCpl Colin Usher. (Colin** hopes to take over the company when **Sid** goes public).

The rest of the Section (both of them) rush around the province pretending to joint cables and rig masts.

This should leave you wondering what the gang listed under 'Personalities' do for a living!

Cpl (at last) 'Dicky' Dickinson in an unusual pose—working!

WO2 (FofS) Billy Hughes ducks to avoid the next fast ball from the 2IC



Sig Sid Steel wiring up the TOTs latest invention—an automatic golf-ball detector

SUMMER CAMP 1988—EX JIMMY'S REVENGE
by Sgt Hunter

It was a cold wintry July evening as the intrepid 20 boarded the blue and white bus (courtesy of Half Crown Motors) at Thiepval, destination Belfast Docks. Scout Leader **(Sgt Hunter)** shepherded his 5 girls and 14 boys onto the luxury Car Ferry. The voyage across the Irish Sea to 'Scouseland' went off without a hitch; well nobody was lost overboard anyway.

On arrival at Liverpool we were met by **Tony** our friendly bus driver who whisked us off to Capel Curig Training Centre located in darkest North Wales.

After depositing our packs and bags in the luxury chalets provided, we were given a comprehensive brief on camp life by the resident Head 'Red-Coat' **(SSM Watson).** And so to lunch.

After lunch, much to the disappointment of everyone (mostly the SSM), the weather was too overcast to go for the promised sightseeing tour of the local hills (or should I say mountains). Instead we ventured down to a nearby village called Llanwrst to meet the locals and partake in a few glasses of Spa water! Suitably refreshed we made our way back to CCTC for dinner. After dinner private study was recommended, but with taste of the local Spa water lingering on the lips it was decided to try a few more.

Summer Camp proper started in earnest on the Friday morning with the party being split into three groups for the three different activities planned. They were Canoeing/Windsurfing, Hillwalking and Rock Climbing/Abseiling.

Group 1 (of which I was a member) under the direction of **SSgt Barnes RE** set off for one of the local lakes to try our hand at Canoeing and Windsurfing. After the normal water safety briefing, we were off onto the Lake, like the last of the Mohicans. Only one person managed to escape this exercise, this was **Sig (now LCpl) 'Divis' Armstrong**, because we did not have a canoe large enough for him to get into. After frolicking in the canoes for a few hours we adjourned to the Lake Side for lunch, butties, Mars Bars and fruit. After lunch a few of the brave tried their hand at posing on the Windsurfers. After many dunkings **WCpl Painter** proved to be a natural (poser). **LCpl Morgan** and I managed to find the middle of the lake quite easily, problem being we couldn't get back. Needless to say swimming was added to the pursuits for that afternoon.

Next day (Saturday) Group 1 set off with **Sgt 'Tracker' Webb** to walk up the nearest Mount Everest. This came in the form of Mount Llewellyn a mere 1,064 metres high. The wind and rain made things rather uncomfortable, more so for **Pte O'Neill** (APDO) who went down with a mild case of exposure.

Leaving our guide **'Tracker' Webb** to care for the injured party, ably assisted by **WCpl Painter, WLCpl Rush** and **LCpl Armstrong,** I and three of the lads made a hasty retreat down the mountain to RV with our transport, which took us back to Capel Curig. Once there, I informed the head 'Red-Coat' who sprange into action and in a flash we had a rescue team consisting of **SSM Watson, SSgt Barnes RE, Sgt Burns** and much to my horror me.

Carrying the 2 ton stretcher the 'team' made it up Mount Llewellyn and back without too much fuss. Once again back to CCTC, this time

WCpl Debbie Bunting ties the knot with Cpl Rogers from 225 Sig Sqn

to tuck into dinner which had been lovingly prepared that afternoon by the head 'Red-Coat', time now 2230 hrs.

Because of the toils and late return to base the previous night the next day's adventure training was cancelled. Instead all three groups set off for a visit to the local Slate Mines at Blaenau Ffestinog, but disaster struck again. Just after the start of the guided tour the electricity supply failed, so out we came, cash refunded, early lunch. (I don't think much of Welsh bitter).

Next day (Monday) it was back to the hills again. This time not on foot but on horseback. This was hilarious as the majority of people had never been near a horse, never mind ridden one. I say horse, as for some obscure reason they insisted in calling this pony treking. Some of these 'ponies' resembled Shire Horses. Anyway a good time was had by all.

Tuesday turned out to be another disaster because of the weather. My group was programmed to take part in rock climbing and abseiling with the SSM. But as the rain was dropping 'sideways' in the wind it was considered far too hazardous. We used the free time to do some shopping in Bangor.

Wednesday the last day, the yellow light bulb was seen in the sky. This was a godsend, as it had been decided to head off to Porthmadog on the coast for some sea canoeing, rock climbing and at last abseiling. After this excellent day down at the beach it was back to CCTC for the end of Camp Barbecue, which was excellent. Well done the Chef.

Thursday was the hardest day of camp. Up at 0500 hrs to clean the accommodation, have breakfast, and board the bus by 0545 hrs. The journey to Liverpool was a blur, as most people slept on the way to the docks. After another boring sea crossing our transport eventually came to sweep us back to Lisburn.

Overall an excellent camp. I look forward to next year.

POINTS TO NOTE

There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that **WCpl Painter** believes that people from North Wales are buried at 50m intervals across the hillside. Or, that **Sgt Webb**, out with the first hill walking party, had a map of the Mourne Mountains. Or, that **LCpl Morgan** became so attached to his horse that he decided to let it stand on him, not once but three times.

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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

THE MILITARY TRAINING WING

Up on the north side of camp out of the way and where they cannot upset the rest of the College is the Military Training Wing. Made up of all trades, Data/Radio Telegraphists, Telemechs, Radio Operators, Radio Relay Operators, Combat Powermen, Combat Driver and would you believe it, two Radio Technicans, oh yes and two Infantrymen; we are the bruisers of this College that teach all the JL's and AT's their Military Training. If you need to contact us make it a Monday as the rest of the week we're out on a training area doing our stuff, in fact, at the end of a two year stint, a member of the Wing can boast that he has worn out a Karrimat and poncho and, if he hasn't got Catterick Back, he is lucky.

Our term's work is taken up with a variety of different exercises/training weeks starting with the Basic Recruit training where the new intake learns all the weapon handling, marksmanship, NBC and first aid, not to mention a small helping of fieldcraft. The recruits enjoy the Basic Recruit Training (well it gets them away from the Drill Square). Over the seven weeks the recruits get to know the staff and the staff definitely get to know the recruits. By the time the Recruit Training has finished the term is at its half way stage.

During the second half of our term we get involved in various exercises that revise and test the AT's/JL's on all aspects of the recruit training. There is some further teaching such as the Defence Exercise where a boy will go into the field and learn the art of digging a 2/4 man trench in stage 3. We also carry out all the mandatory training tests for the permanent staff at the College.

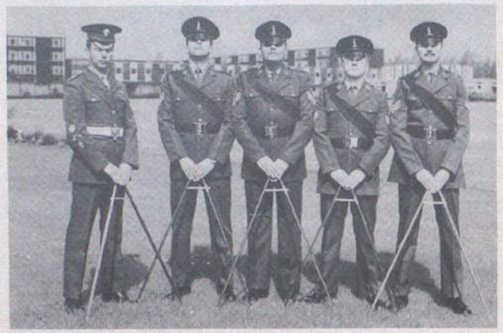
The manning of the Wing has changed drastically over the past few months and we have lost: **Capt C. Fenner** Green Howards—off to Northern Ireland, **WO2 John Willcott** Kings Own Royal Border Regt to civvy street, **SSgt Bob Taylor** to 8 Bde Sig Sqn (on promotion), **Sgt Ray Spencer** to 3 Div Sig Regt (on promotion), **Sgt Stevie Beattie** to 2 Fd Regt RA. **Sgt Norrie Ruddiman** to 7 Sig Regt, **Sgt Pete McElwee** to 3 Bde Sig Sqn and **Cpl Alfie Garnett** to Hong Kong.

Posted in are **Capt Gordon Halewood** Royal Anglian Regt, **WO2 George Evans** Kings Own Royal Border Regt, **Sgts Adrian Downes, Mac McFeeley** and **'Boggy' Marsh.**

So if you are trained up and want to feed on compo, live on Catterick Training area and get about 13 weeks leave a year, volunteer!

PACE-STICKING COMPETITIONS

On 4 May the Inter-Squadron Pace-Sticking competition took place. In a very close competition Penney Sqn beat Rawson Sqn. **Sgt Del East** of Scott Sqn was the best individual sticker.



WO2 (CSM) Mal Pearson Gren Gds, Sgts Terry Oakes, Les Bostock, Jeff Watts and Chamie Leather (Reserve)

Standing: Sgt John Coles, Cpls Kev Drew, Jeff Dean, Sgts Downs, Bob Smith, 'Nobby' Clarke, Chaz Cowell, Cpl Stevie Woodford, Sgt 'Mac' McFeely and Cpl 'Taff' Roderick
Sitting: Sgts Pete Kingston, Neil Allamby, WO2 (WTWO) George Evans, Capt (The Boss) Gordon Halewood Royal Anglian Regt, SSgt Bob (Now WO2) Taylor, Sgt Pete (Now SSgt) McElwee and Capt Alex Craig

SCOTT SQUADRON REPORT

Reflections from Senior Term by AT Sgt Graeme Young

On June 17 1986 intake 86B arrived at the AA Coll Harrogate to begin its Recruit Training. All of us were nervous and many were wondering whether we would be able to complete the course—some of us even wondered why we were here at all!

On 31 May six members of the Corps travelled to Pirbright, Guards Depot for the World Championships. They were trained by **WO2 (CSM) Mal Pearson** who was the individual World Champion in 1985. The team driven by **WO2 (SSM) Tony Spray** retained their title as non-household division world champions and came fourth overall.

World (Non-Household Division) Pace-Sticking Champions 1988
WO2 (CSM) Mal Pearson Gren Gds (Trainer), Sgts Tom Dooley, Ken Sheppard, Jeff Watts and WO2 (SSM) Tony Spray (Driver).
Absent: Sgt Martin Archer

Recruit Tp is probably the most eventful time for anyone. All sorts of characters arrived on 17 June, **Humple** from Edinburgh, **Sobot** from the New Forest and little **Bysouth** from Colne. They were the quiet ones and there were loud ones like **Gaskin** and **Malone**. There were also the ex-cadets who were the only ones who could bull their boots—**Barnett** not only did his own but also managed a pretty good job on **SSgt Harris**'s. We were all introduced to new games like Show Parades and Quick change parades.

Scott Squadron Graduation Term—86B
Author back row on the extreme left

AT Craig Walker had the dubious honour of being the first recipient of these awards—another delight was the 'bull night' which we all came to love—every day of the week!

As time went on a few of the original 32 disappeared through choice and medical discharges. After six weeks we moved up from Recruit Tp accommodation and were joined by some lads from Bradley Sqn. We completed our Recruit Tp with our Pass-Off in October. From Rocket to Rook—one step closer to Senior Team and Graduation!

As we all embarked on our trade training we wondered how on earth we were supposed to learn morse at four words a minute, let alone being able to receive it at twenty-seven words a minute—I never did find out what Avagrado's constant was either. Whilst undergoing trade training we discovered the delights of the local training areas such as Bishop Monkton, Ripon Park and Catterick.

There have been some personal achievements during our time at the College. **AT Lewis-Walker** canoed for the Army Senior Squad, **AT Humphries** competed in the Army Badminton Championships whilst **AT Sgt McCarter** and myself gained Diver Qualifications and dived in Scapa Flow. **AT Sgt McCarter** also went on to teach Officer Cadets to dive in the Red Sea.

So we have finally reached it—Senior Term. With this honour go privileges such as wearing the red flashes and using the Senior Term bar and also getting the much sought after weekend passes (now and again). With Senior Term came the dreaded trade board which involved putting to the test all that we had learnt over our two years apprenticeship. It was hard work but thankfully we all passed and the only thing left between us and Graduation was Ex Final Fling. This involves revising and examining all aspects of military training over a two week period—again this was hard work but useful, especially for those of us posted to field units. With a few days to go before our parade, we can say that we've done it. Two years older and two years wiser. Although I think that some Permanent Staff might disagree about that!

SCOTT SQUADRON PARACHUTING

By AT Sgts Paul McCarter and Ian Dickenson

On 14 May, seven AT's from Scott Sqn arrived at Merlin Parachute Centre, near Topcliffe after a Brands Hatch style drive around the runways by our driver **Cpl Steve Smith.**

After cups of tea and making our acquaintance with the instructing staff we started our day's training. This consisted of lectures, kit familiarisation and emergency drills, (which brought about a slight panic amongst our group). There was a good deal of sitting around as well, which began to bring out more basic feelings; fear was amongst them. But there were no real problems with the training and we all looked forward to the jump the next day.

Sunday was sunny, warm but breezy. I can remember thinking 'what a nice day to die on'. On arrival at the Centre we put our names on the manifest boards immediately to ensure our jump for the day. The only problem was that as we were all first time jumpers we could not jump in winds of more than 10mph. It was 12-14mph at that moment and for most of the day.

'Aren't we supposed to be looking at the ground?'

At approximately 1800 hrs our team's names were called over the tannoy system. The wind had dropped. We all kitted up and were taken to our aircraft in the minibus. **AT LCpl Derek Strugnell**'s face had to be seen to be believed!

The aircraft quickly circled at 2,000ft and the order came 'first man in the door'. **Strugnell**, who incidentally had parachute number 13, made his way to the door. In an instant he was gone, floating merrily down towards good old terra firma. Next to go was **AT LCpl Andrew Miller**.

We circled around again and dropped **McCarter** and **Dickenson**. The feeling is something you cannot explain, as anybody who has done it can tell you. I did my count and looked up, gratefully to find my parachute opening correctly. It was fabulous just floating around the sky using the toggles to steer myself.

Once we got to 300ft I turned into the wind and prepared to land. All of a sudden I found out exactly what they meant when they said 'ground rush'. I hit the ground and did my much trained PLF (Parachute Landing Fall). The instructor had said it was like jumping off a 4ft wall; it was more like jumping off a house with a PTI strapped to your back. No funny ideas from the gym staff please!

After the relief of landing safely we all made our way to the club house, our fears gone and in their place a feeling of pride but more important a burning hunger to get back into the plane and go again.

BRADLEY SQUADRON REPORT

The current Champion Squadron reports on the present Champion Squadron competition.

INTER-SQUADRON ATHLETICS COMPETITION

by Lt Nick Caleb

The weather set the scene for what was going to be an excellent day. Sun, little wind and a competitive spirit all looked set to stay. Unfortunately the sun did disappear and the wind arrived, but the spirit remained.

The first event was to be a battle of the distance runners, in the 3,000m. **JLs Robert Lester** and **Michael Ward** ran for Bradley. They both showed great determination throughout and **Lester** was second in the Junior and **Ward** first in the Senior Class. Later they both obtained first places for Junior and Senior Steeplechase.

Other notable results in the running events came from **JL Paul McCarthy** in 110m Hurdles, **JL Graham Crawford** in the Junior 800m and **JL Andrew Clark** in the Senior 800m who all gained second placings.

Outstanding field results were achieved by **JL John Smith** 530 who achieved first in the Junior High Jump with a personal best of 1m 73cm and first in the Junior Javelin. **JL Ian Barnett** gained a first in the Junior Hammer and **JLs McCarthy, Michael Evans, Thomas Kinnaird** and **Jeremy Ridges** all achieved second placings in Discus, High Jump, Triple Jump, Pole Vault and Shot respectively.

The day was good fun for all, the overall result, a close fourth, did not reflect the outstanding efforts of all the Bradley Sqn team. Scott Sqn won the competition.

Finally, thanks must go to **Sgts Dave Curgenven** and **Paul Horton** for the hard work put in the coaching side.

CHAMPION SQUADRON COMPETITION

By Lt Gordon Anderson

This term's Champion Squadron Day took place on 28 May. As normal the activities and the troops to take part in them were not nominated until the morning of the Competition. Thus, when the nominal rolls arrived dictating which JL's were to take part in which event, the sound of locker doors being ripped open to the accompanying cries of, 'whose borrowed my eardefenders?', or 'where's my PT Vest?' were heard.

The Squadron marched to the events led by **Pipe Maj Tam Cornwall** Royal Scots.

The swimming test surprised many by its severity; swim one length, pass through two hoops, recover an object from the bottom then climb to the top diving board via a scramble net. The exhausted faces of those taking part were exemplified by **JLs Neil Darvill** and **Robert Kirk** who were unable to speak for several minutes afterwards (a previously unknown occurrence).

The map reading was a severe test of accuracy, a question paper was followed by a test which the competitors, from Quadrant and Whitespear Tps, had to follow a course consisting of distances and bearing. Once the team felt it was at the end it marked the spot with a peg. The arguments over the positioning of the peg seemed endless.

It was the Fieldcraft stand at which the Squadron excelled. The team scored highest marks in all three elements; the observation and written test and TOETs on SLR.

The most gruelling event of the day, the Initiative tests, fell to the members of Quadrant Tp. The team was split into halves. The first groups had to fill two buckets with water from a hose, they then carried the buckets over elements of the Assault Course, including the 6ft wall, and placed the water into another bin. They then ran back to the start where the second group took over. This virtual torture went on for 20 minutes. The Squads performed extremely well spurred on by the example of **JL Cpl Stuart McLean.**

At the end of nearly five hours of competition the results including the Inter-Squadron Athletics Competition were as follows: Bradley Sqn—19 points, Penney Sqn—19 points, Scott Sqn—18½ points and Rawson Sqn—13½ points.

The Drill Competition will decide who will be the next Champion Squadron.

'Which way round do the working parts go?' wonder JL LCpl John Badger and JL Cpl Paul Roberts. Sgt 'Nobby' Clark, trying to remember how to do TOETs, observes

RAWSON SQUADRON REPORT

The OC's parting gesture was to organise a sponsored run for the Squadron. However, **Maj Norman Ladds** was posted before it took place so **Maj Brian Harrison** took over the Great Rawson Run and of course the Squadron too.

The Great Rawson Run, also known as Ex Blackborough Bound, was a charitable fund raising exercise completed by two teams of runners from Rawson Sqn.

The teams ran from Blackpool to Scarborough via Harrogate carrying messages of greeting from the Mayor of Blackpool to the Mayors of Harrogate and Scarborough. The run was divided into two legs, the first team ran from Blackpool to Harrogate and then the second team took over to complete the run in Scarborough. The runners themselves ran in pairs completing stretches of three and a half miles at a time before handing over to another pair. As well as running, the Apprentices were also involved in manning a communication centre, (to provide members of the public with an update on the progress of the run), and a display in Harrogate town centre.

The route the runners followed was along the A59 from Blackpool to Harrogate then on to York and Scarborough. Detours were made from this route to pass through some of the smaller towns to achieve maximum publicity for the run—although not many people were out and about in Clitheroe at 0200 hrs on Saturday morning!

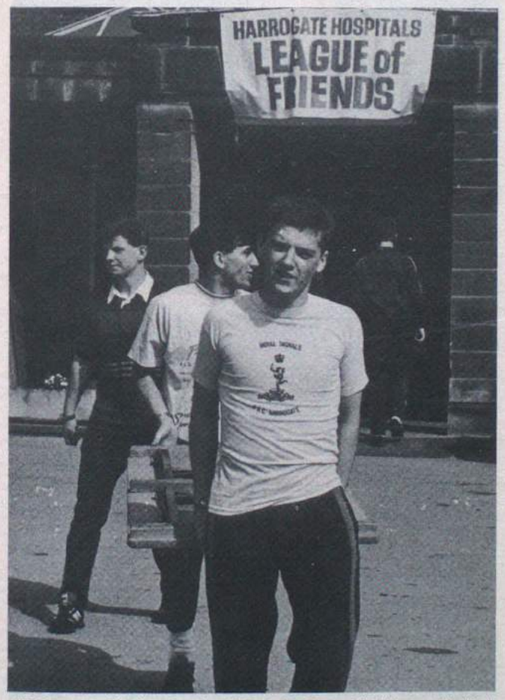
A number of Apprentices come from towns near Blackpool and Scarborough so they ran those legs and also met the Mayors and presented them with College plaques.

At the time of going to press it is known that over £3,000 has been raised from the sponsorship for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, final figure in next issue.

Apprentice Tradesmen Mark Taylor from Lytham St Annes, Blackpool, receives the message of greeting from the Mayor of Blackpool

The runners approaching Scarborough

The team



AT Gregory Huxley leading AT John Butt. AT Matty Wellfair looking lost

PENNEY SQUADRON REPORT

The entire Officer Corps of Penney Sqn has changed. **Maj Roy Lund** after eight months in command of the Squadron handed over to **Maj Paul Wilkin**. The Second in Command, **Capt David Luckett** moves to the Training Adjutant job with **Capt Bill House** taking over. **Lt Nick Caleb** has moved to Bradley Sqn with **Lt Giles Henschel** replacing him. He takes over as OIC external leadership in September.

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

Traditionally Penny Sqn helps the Harrogate Hospital League of Friends with their annual Garden Party. This time, on 8 May, 16 members of the Squadron set up and ran their own football and mystery treasure hunt stall, raising over £55.00 for their funds.

AT LCpl Paul Barnfield leads out the dresses

CAR WASH

On 21 May the majority of the Squadron took part in Ex Chamois Leather, a charity car wash using the car parks of Harrogate. The Squadron was split into washing and selling teams and with a member of the permanent staff deployed to 12 different car parks. Having practised on permanent staff cars on the Friday evening all were ready and eager to perform.

The day dawned sunny and dry and luckily remained so. The

Squadron deployed to flood Harrogate! There were a few funny stories: The driver of a Rolls Royce paid £4.00 *not* to have his car cleaned. The entire workforce of one car park—twelve, all cleaning one car, a black Ferrari. A very tall white van cleaned up to the 7ft level. At the end of the day we had raised £2,304. The OC accompanied by **AT SSM Jim Porter**, presented a cheque which was televised on Yorkshire Television's Telethon programme. **ATs Phil Davies, Mike Jolley, Mark McKinstry** and **Adrian Phoenix** in their band uniforms adding colour to the presentation ceremony.

AT LCpl Matthew Haley and AT Simon Nicholson getting in some practice

TELETHON '88

Apart from Penney Sqn's Car Wash, the College organised an open evening, White Helmets display, Blue Helmets parachute display and the College Band, Pipe and Drums.

'Can I land on top of them?'

'Surely fire eating is easier than this?'

Every little helps as Samantha Wilkin gives JL Mark Leigh and AT LCpl Jason Roberts her donation

HOCKEY REPORT

The College has had a very successful season in Hockey. The permanent staff side won the minor units NE District cup and a combined side of permanent staff and apprentices were runners up in the NE District league.

The most successful side was the U17½ side which won the Junior Army Hockey Cup. After a very close fought final against Princess Marina College, Arborfield, Harrogate finally won a very tense penalty competition. Luckily most of the side will still be here next year so we have great hopes for another good season.

Congratulations to **AT Ashworth, AT Cpl Adamson, JL Pollitt** and **AT Scott** who all represented the Army U21 team this season.

Royal Signals Manning and Record Office Glasgow

HELLO FROM THE MRO HEADQUARTERS

'HQ' is responsible for the day-to-day management and coordination of the Office as a whole. Whilst not directly responsible for soldiers careers, we do have first-sight of all correspondence arriving in the Office. Not a day goes by without our 'book of gems' being added to: who would believe, for example, that Sig A can't go to NI because his granny is pregnant? Or that Sgt B is unavailable for posting to BAOR because his one year old son would have to change schools! It just goes to show that we breed genius young in the Corps.

Our leader, **Col David Miller**, author of note, should be well-known to most soldiers in the Corps from his numerous visits, when he lectures, meets and interviews all—or so it seems to the minions left behind, who have to deal with his notes when he gets back. During his tour at the MRO he has visited soldiers in Cyprus, Hong Kong, Falklands, Gibraltar and even took time to see the Corps' one and only Tele Mech on Ascension, as well as visiting units in the UK, BAOR, Berlin, SHAPE and AFCENT. Oops! I nearly forgot those lonely outposts in the Hebrides and Shetland. The problem now is what to do with him during his last six months when he is not allowed to go on overseas visits. Any reasonable suggestion will be considered by SO2 (Coord) **Maj Roy Adamson**, who has been around in the Corps for some 33 years and who has at last found a place to rest his head here in Glasgow, having fallen in love with the city (or is it the girls in the Office?) and bought a house. **Roy** has an aversion to Civil Service flexitime, although we suspect that he is secretly jealous that he can't be on it himself! He is supported by **Phyllis Greig**, who joined us in Reading three months prior to 'dispersal' to Glasgow. She is 'Mum' to a lot of our young staff and when she is not doing civilian administration, fighting time-clocks or fixing the Colonel's flights, she is always ready to lend a sympathetic ear to the many real (and some imaginary!) problems that affect the young. **Phyllis** is from Clydebank and naturally enough is not a football supporter—who is from Clydebank.

Adele Walker from East Kilbride has, perhaps wisely, no football team to support. Amongst many other jobs she is the custodian of 'hysterical' records, the annual document sent by most units about once in every six years! Like most of the girls, **Adele** is always slimming, using the 'Glasgow diet', which entails eating all main meals and continuing to eat snacks washed down by copious draughts of Irn Bru throughout the day. Who are we to criticise, since they all look so well on it? **Adele** does a disappearing act each Friday, turning up again, looking suitably shattered on Monday morning, saying she's been to keep-fit classes! **Lucy McIntosh** has been with us since January; always smiling, **Lucy** works in the combined Post Room in the RPO. Living in Cardonald near Ibrox she admits to being a Rangers supporter—and why not?

Last, but not least, is **Ann Ord**, PA to the OIC and (luckily for us all) willing to turn her hand to any other office chore. **Ann** is well travelled, having accompanied her civil servant husband around the world, but she now lives in Paisley, and we know what happened to St Mirren last season!

Col David Miller left holding the baby (again!) during a visit to Shetland

HQ Wing Maj Roy Adamson happy to be surrounded by his girls. Ann Ord, Phyllis Greig, Adele Walker and Lucy McIntosh

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION 1

The Deputy Officer in Charge of Manning and Records and OIC Division 1 is **Lt Col Jimmy Cullen** who took up his appointment in May this year following tours in Headquarters Northern Army Group in Rheindahlen and UKCICC at Salisbury. **Col Cullen** was delighted to be selected for his present appointment, since he was able to renew an old acquaintanceship with Glasgow, having previously been CO of 32 Sig Regt.

The remaining Headquarters staff consists of, firstly, **Roberta Young** who ably manages the Y List for Royal Signals. **Mrs Young** has been with us since the amalgamation of Division 2 where she formerly worked and a welcome addition she is too! We next have **WO1 Phil Welch**, ex RSM 13 Sig Regt. As our Mr CERC, **Mr Welch** is busily engaged on the Career Employment Review Proposals and is finding the work to his liking. Our final duo in the Headquarters of the Division are **Mrs Irene Dunston** and **Mr Brian McGuigan**. Together they run the administrative support so vital to any operation. Both are relative newcomers to their respective desks and we hope they have a long and happy stay.

HQ Div 1. Lt Col Jimmy Cullen *(right)* with Irene Dunston, Roberta Young and WO1 (Mr Cerc) Phil Welch

A WING

A Wing is more commonly known as The 'A-Team', although 'A' apparently stands for Alcoholic!, because any excuse for a celebration and they're there! During our flexi hours we look after the Postings, Courses and Promotions of almost 3,000 Radio and Data Telegraphists, as well as taking good care of Potential Yeomen.

Most of the staff joined A Wing whilst it was still based in Reading and one or two of us have left our hearts down there. First to commence the onslaught South was **Lorraine Oliver** (Courses Clerk) and if you don't find **Lorraine** loading A1 Entrance Exams, Up-Grading Courses or Crypto Courses you'll find her on British Rail, commuting to the other side of Hadrian's Wall.

Jim ('Don't Harrass Me') **Tausney** is Promotions Clerk for both Trades. Day in, day out **Jim's** there promoting soldiers, and twice a year he ensures that all the Confidential Reports are here where they should be, so that everything runs smoothly on the promotion boards.

But **Jim** just can't understand why he does all this hard-work and his own name never comes up for promotion. Never mind—one day, **Jim**! Next on the Roll-of-Honour are the three Postings Clerks: **Denis 'The Menace' Maxwell** (R Tgs Sig-Cpl), **Ruth Butler** (D Tgs Sig-Cpl) and **Alison Hunter** (Sgts-SSgts and Potential Yeoman). At the moment the two girls are on a keep-fit campaign and after a hard day in the office, posting soldiers anywhere from Blandford to Belize they love to exercise in the Gym and then unwind in The Pub! There they are inevitably joined by **Denis**, who himself has achieved some outstanding results on the Sporting Field. 1988 has seen him play for Kentigern House MOD Football Team, which recently won Glasgow City Centre League and Cup—could **Denis** be the Jocks' answer to **Gary Lineker?**

Kate Mitchell is the Admin Assistant holding A Wing together, who joined us recently after a year in the Royal Signals Post Room; after her arrival it took us three weeks to figure out that we hadn't taken a Laughing Hyena on strength.

In charge of this set-up is **Maj Studd**; since joining the MRO as an RO3 in December 1986 his grasp of the Glasgow dialect has improved daily, so much so that he recently passed his initiation and added to his list of qualifications an O-Level pass in 'Glaswegian Patter'. So now everything in A Wing is 'Naebawra'ata!!!' and we wish you all 'Awrabest!'

The 'A' Team. Jim Tausney, Maj (Retd) Peter Studd, Dennis Maxwell, Ruth Butler, Lorraine Oliver and Allison Hunter

B WING

Maj (Retired) John Davies still leads the Wing and says that since his last notes **Cathie McGhie** has been lost to Manning Control Wing, **Clare Moran** to Contracts Branch in Leeds and **Trisha Leatham** to an MOD team in Paris—who says civilians give stability and continuity? An interesting fact is that, as **Clare** points out, she received nine days notice of her own posting, while she got a rocket if 'her' soldiers do not have a ROPO in their hands at least six months before moving!

B Wing is eagerly looking forward to the CERC reorganisation when they hope to take Tele Mechs and the Band under their 'Wing' whilst retaining FofS, Tele Techs (Systems) and Radio.

Currently, the B Wing Roster reads as follows: **Ronnie Weir** posts RR Techs and Foremen of Signals. With the departure of **Clare** and **Trisha**, he is now the longest serving member of B Wing. **Ronnie** is very keen on athletics and golf and has been tipped as a possible rival to **Seb Coe** (at golf).

David Whitehall is responsible for all B Wing promotions (no bribes accepted!) His hobbies include karate and cycle racing. He has represented Scotland in cycling all over the world, including two Commonwealth Games, and is a former British record holder at 4,000m. Maybe this is why he tells Chief Clerks to 'get on their bikes!'

A recent transfer from Manning Control Wing, **Jacquie Reilly** posts TE Techs and loads Commando Courses. When asked recently to define the two ingredients which go to make a good posting clerk, she commented that a sweet smile (over the telephone, yes!) and a totally ruthless nature were essential to the job. **Jacquie** hopes her 'tour' in B Wing will be a character-building experience.

Margaret Futter is the lynchpin, keeping the filing trays empty and the office running efficiently, but the Wing still hasn't figured out why she goes to the shredder so often! Her hobby is travelling: in fact, she advises **Alan Whicker** where to go for his holidays.

After a mere five days handover from **Clare**, who flew off to Leeds with a smile and the promise of an emergency contact number (which has yet to materialise), **Ann Walsh** has been left in charge of R Tech and Cbt Sigs. It would be easy to be overwhelmed by the task ahead, but **Ann** has taken up the challenge with relish (and Valium).

Marvin Hamill took over Clerks postings and most of B Wing courses in February. He brings an undoubted touch of class to the office. His good taste, impeccable manners and general all-round sophistication make him a pleasure to work with or so he always tells us! **Marvin** is also an excellent gardener.

As specially requested, a final word from **Clare**, 'Fare ye well R Tech and Cbt Sigs, I loved ye well. Where's my going away card?' (NB Too late—she's gone!)

B Wing. Ronnie Weir, Jacqueline Reilly, Ann Walsh, Margaret Futter and a happy Maj (Retd) John Davies

NEXT C WING

Maj Geoff Exell is the only Retired Officer of the original band who made the move from Reading to Glasgow and now considers himself fully integrated as an Anglo-Scot. He sold his beloved Walther KKM rifle and, instead of shooting, he now tramps the Glens and sports a Black Stewart kilt at the sundry ceilidhs in and around his home in Helensburgh.

George MacKenzie was one of the first of the Glasgow contingent in Reading—they even put his photo in *The Wire*, to prove it. He has two and a half years in the job and is well known as the only bearded member of Division 1. He takes great pride in being even older than the RSMs, SSMs, YofS and Supvr R he administers.

A much depleted C Wing. Maj (Retd) Geoff Exell with George McKenzie and Christine Aird

Margaret Wilson maintains a 'hot line' on behalf of the S Tg and EW Ops. She is often to be heard persuading (and convincing) the QMs of the Corps that, of course, they have the best Tech Stmn in their unit (but that's not what she says when she puts the phone down!)

Christine Aird vies with **Margaret Wilson** for having the sweetest voice in the office. Much of her time is spent pacifying Commanders and COs whose drivers have transgressed. The remainder of the time she spends trying to fill posts in UK and BAOR with drivers whose posting preferences always start 'Cyprus, Berlin, Belize . . .' For relaxation and variety she answers the telephone for Samaritans when off-duty—more of a busman's holiday really!

Elaine McElhatton recently transferred from the Security Section to be a Promotion Clerk and was greatly surprised to survive strain and pain of the C Promotion Board in June. She keeps a cheerful grin, but she now realises that not all soldiers can be winners, although she would dearly love to promote them all.

Joyce Findlay gives support to us all by filing the mass of paper generated daily in the course of postings, promotions and courses. She wonders how the Post Office still manages to damage Warrant Officers parchment warrants, even though she sends them out in armoured-plated tubes!

D WING

'Tempus Fugit' is the only Latin that the OIC **Maj (Retired) Mike Simms-Reeve** remembers. It seems no time ago that the first Glaswegian, or more accurately 'person from Strathclyde', joined the Wing in November 1985. Since then ten have worked in the Wing! The OIC feels at times like a Master of Ceremonies conducting a game of musical chairs! At the same time he vehemently denies that he is a Yuppy because the Y stands for young. Here are some notes on the current members of the Wing staff.

Cathy Cadden is the longest serving Glaswegian in the Wing having (trust her to remember) joined on 3 December 1985. She guards and cherishes 'her' Radio Relay Operators and Combat Powerman Drivers with great devotion. It may be a coincidence that she is planning her holiday this year in Munich at the time of the 'Beer Fest'. She is affectionately known as the 'baby' of the Wing.

Aileen Lee looks after Radio Operators and Combat Lineman, having worked previously in HQ Division 1, she has now been in the Wing for just over six months and, as if she has not got enough to do in the office, she is also involved in youth work and is a Guider. She is particularly keen on adventurous activities and her winter holiday was spent skiing on the Austrian/Italian border. She recently visited a 5 Airborne Brigade Signal Squadron descent and we were a little surprised that she did not manage to join in. If **Aileen** visits your unit, lock up your Tippex!

Jacquie 'Why Me' Feeney runs the Promotions Desk in the Wing. We are delighted to hear that she is due for promotion to EO at the end of the year. The OIC is probably breathing a sigh of relief, because her departure will make it eleven and he feels that he can become twelfth man. She has recently completed the very demanding job of her first Promotion Board, but admits that one of her ambitions is to combat Promotion Board Blues. She regularly attends dancing classes and a health club.

Clint Craigie is the OIC's assistant for Senior NCOs (we have over 400) and the CEQ of Tele Mech. He is another member of the Wing who is keen on sport and outdoor pursuits. It is perhaps surprising that he has not yet been given the nickname of 'Limper', he has certainly earned it, becuase he recently completed the West Highland Way, a 100 mile walk, and splendidly raised some £350 for Cancer Research. He is also a musical enthusiast who regularly attends events throughout the country and his comments about the navigational standards of his navigators are unprintable!

D Wing. Maj (Retd) Mike Simms-Reeve looking relaxed with Clinton Craigie, Cathy Cadden, Jacquiline Feeney, Ann Mooney, Aileen Lee and James Jordan

James Jordan has recently joined us on promotion from AA to AO and he runs the Courses desk. At the time of writing these notes his interests have not yet received the same scrutiny as have those of other members of the Wing. He is a keen all-round sportsman and plays American Football, although we have yet to see him coming in limping or showing the scars of this most active sport. He is almost the second bearded member of staff, but his 'spread' never seems to be more than an afterthought (or, perhaps, an oversight!)

Finally, **Ann Mooney** is our Administrative Assistant (Clerk to the uninitiated), and we hope that her back problems are not in any way attributable to putting away the 3,400 Wing Career files. She is very much the mother figure of the Wing. She was previously a golfing widow until she decided that she would start playing herself (or did her crystal ball tell her she was going to join the sports orientated D Wing?) We wish her luck in her next attempt at removing the 'L' plates from her car.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST—MANNING CONTROL WING

With a staff of ten, MCW covers a multitude of tasks, all of which have a bearing upon the regular soldiers of the Corps, and divides neatly into three sections—Manpower Accounting, Security Control and specialist Career Management. Amongst other things, that amounts to us being the Wing who post you from Trade training, administer you if you are selected for a loan service, manage your career if you are employed at a Recruiting Office, control all aspects of your security vetting, organize promotion and commissioning boards, and account for the Corps Manpower worldwide (to do all this, it helps if you can eat at least two Shredded Wheat for breakfast).

Joyce Baikie is the Wing's Manpower Accountant and thrives on the intricacies of establishments and unit Manning levels. Many Adjutants and Chief Clerks will be familiar with the exceptionally neat regimental MDD extracts. **Joyce** joined us after the office had moved from Reading but her detailed knowledge of MPT, MDD and AFC 7005 suggest that she has been doing the job for ten years or more.

Gillian Freckleton is the cheerful 23 year old who administers all regular soldiers when they first begin their career in the Corps; she only hands them on to their Career Wing when they have completed their Military and Trade training and been posted to their first working unit. **Gillian** also controls loan service posts for Royal Signals and volunteers for specialist employments such as 264 Signal Squadron, 5 Airborne Squadron and the White Helmets (to mention just a few); so if you want an interesting job next tour, she is probably the one to approach. But, beware—her boyfriend is a Glasgow Policeman and they don't come any tougher than that!

Irene Gray is our other volunteer post expert, but she also coordinates the requests from soldiers who wish to serve as instructors in training establishments. She organises the Volunteer Newsletter which is published twice a year and appears on your unit Noticeboards giving details of forthcoming postings which are available. **Irene**, who comes from Hamilton is married—her husband is a vehicle mechanic.

Controlling the Wings input to promotion and Commissioning Boards is **Miss Cathy McGhie** who joined MCW six months ago from B Wing where she worked on the Chief Clerk's roster. **Cathy** is responsible also for change of career employment applications, applications for Commissions outside the Corps and liaison with the PSO in Catterick. She is engaged to a fellow Civil Servant and by the time these notes are read will be **Mrs David Devoy**.

Tom Behan is employed loading Staff Sergeants Courses, Detachment Commanders Courses (UK) and Leadership Courses—a time consuming set of tasks made no easier by frequent last minute changes. **Tom** also deals with applications for service on the Long Service List and continuation boards—he came to MCW from Division 2 about a year ago and liked what he saw so he decided to stay!

The security section consists of three Administrative Officers, two of whom have been with the Wing since the office was moved to Glasgow. They are **Miss Laura Cameron** who works on normal vetting, **Mr Eddie Hill** (a footballer of some note) who keeps our positive vetting in good order and relative newcomer **Mr David Whitelaw** who joined us direct from college and deals with vetting referrals.

Last but not least in MCW are the SO2, **Maj Tom McMahon**, who joined us a year ago from 11 Signal Regiment and the SO3, **Maj Bill Coxon** who came from the Apprentices College at Harrogate. Sadly he leaves us in September to take up a new post in Headquarters North West District. Despite his defection we wish him and his wife **Olga** well in their new environment.

Manning Control Wing. An unusually clear desk! Maj (Retd) Bill Coxon in control over *l to r* Laura Cameron, Gillian Freckleton, Tom Behan, Joyce Baikie, Eddie Hill, Irene Gray and Cathy McGhie

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

EXERCISE KAPHAL PAKYO—BATTLE CAMP

There was barely enough room to land the Scout on our recce to Lantau Island. The location was to have approximately 20 tents of various description, but the SQGO **Capt (QGO) Gambahadur Buduja** was not deterred in the slightest. This was where battle camp was going to be held. With the recce over, the admin order was produced by **WO2 Udaichandra, SSgt (SQMS) Danberprakash Yonghang** produced miracles and we managed to crush the kit onto the vehicles and the vehicles onto the RCL's.

Two days of flashing kukris cleared away the undergrowth and frantic tent erecting produced a very hospitable tented camp. Throughout the camp the vast bhat khane machine was kept well fed and watered by **Lt (QGO) Narbahadur Gurung** the camp commander and **Sgt Tekbahadur Rana** our Camp SQMS. On various occasions the camp commander had been seen hijacking chinese fishing junks and Wessex helicopters alike for the purpose of food delivery.

Each phase of the camp was a week long and consisted of Mandatory Training and Military Training culminating in a 24 hr Limited War exercise. Brains were crammed with first aid, NBC, Orders, and section attacks. It was a relief for everybody to get out on exercise to put it into practice. The exercise started with a sea move by RCL with Boats from the QGE. On landing, it was the bridge of the RCL that was nearly stormed not the beach, as the crew dropped us off only just wading distance from the sand. The exercise ended with an extremely successful dawn attack which caught the enemy in their sleeping bags and even one or two of the DS dozing in the grass.

The last day of the camp saw the final inter-section competition; the Nepali dance competition followed by a barbecue, an exciting end to a weeks hard training.

247 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron is located at HMS *Tamar* in the Central District of Hong Kong Island. It is part of Queen's Gurkha Signals and is responsible for providing the main trunk communications into and out of Hong Kong, to Brunei and Nepal and to 14 other communications centres throughout the territory.

This article features the technicians of Systems Control, the Regt UBR competition as seen through the eyes of a WRAC member of team 12 and a Warrant presentation by the Commanding Officer.

SYSTEMS CONTROL, 247 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Systems Control, 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn is located in HMS *Tamar* on Hong Kong Island itself and is a rarity within Queen's Gurkha Signals, being manned almost totally by expatriate Royal Signals on holiday from BAOR. The only exception to this is **Sgt Mahendra Gurung** who recently took over from **Sgt Ombahadur Bhattachan** as the TOTs spy in systems.

'Systems' job is to control all service communication circuits within the colony and a few outside. This includes satelite, HF, VHF, Data and speech, a real Heinz 57 situation. To keep this amalgamation running we split into shift 'workers' and day personnel, and a healthy rivalry ensures a most efficient service to our various customers. However, keeping people in England, Australia, Brunei and Nepal happy, as well as those users in the colony, isn't always easy, especially with all those different time zones to consider.

We are led by **SSgt Martin Waclawek**, Wack to his friends (we call him staff) who on his arrival as a mere Sergeant, decided we didn't need a Foreman, promoted himself, and took over. Staff's assistant, our admin Sgt, **Iain Wylie**, is currently under investigation due to the extraordinary number of memo pads he uses. As this is sub-judice, 'nuff said.'

We also have three WRAC Techs. This puts a severe strain on 'man-management' due to the large number of senior Sergeants who don't like these new fangled ideas. To keep them happy we firmly reject all offers of modern, up-to-date equipment. Using our WRAC Techs for introductions **Sgt Jim Oates** is bravely trying to improve relations with the female DTgs who work next door. We wait to see if he survives the experience.

This month sees the departure to the real world of a few systems stalwarts. **Foreman Russ Moren, Teresa** and family. They did great work on the social side. **Sgt Dave (Scouse) Whiting** and **Pauline**—thanks for the football! and **Cpl Mark Vaughan** and **Cindy**. We remaining few, wish you all the best for the future. This is Hong Kong signing off. Copyright The 'Red Rebel.'

From left to right: Sgts Garner, Mahendra, Sutcliffe, Wylie, Waclawek, SSgt (FofS) Moren, Cpls Dowell, Burton, Sgt Whiting, Cpl Ironside and Sgt Roberts

REGIMENTAL UBR (TEAM 12—247 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Regiment was called out in the early hours of Wednesday 8 June by HQ 48 Bde and tasked to march approximately eight miles in battle order carrying weapons on a route aroung Tai Lam reservoir. The test was to be in the form of a team competition, to be tested on various military skills at eight different stands suitably located around the route.

247 Gurkha Signal Sqn was split into three teams, one team containing eight WRAC personnel who did not carry weapons. We left HMS *Tamar* at the unearthly hour of 0300 hrs and breakfasted under canvas at Tai Lam at 0400 hrs. With the first signs of dawn at around 0500 hrs, we were ferried out by 4 tonner to our first stand. The competition started at 0600 hrs with all teams at their respective stands, ours being NBC. This tested everone getting into their NBC kit. The WRAC were tasked with treating two NBC casualities while the men stripped and assembled their weapons. This completed, we marched to our next stand. (The time taken between each stand and the manner in which each team marched was also part of the marking system).

Stand No 2 was the First Aid test, where three casualties had to be ferried across a river by manufacturing a raft from various bits and pieces to a First Aid post on the other bank. This was a bit of a disaster as all the 'lilos' had holes in them. A 'washout' really. Our next stand was the Command Task where again a water crossing was the theme. **Sgt Ombahadur** our deputy leader had his hands full constructing a 'pulley' while the WRAC, under the leadership of **WSgt Rimmer** constructed a raft from several drums, bits of wood and some string. Although the raft was rather rickety, to say the least, it did succeed in crossing the river, much to the relief of the casualty, who risked life and limb.

Our next stand was the General Knowledge Test and to the initial relief of everyone it started to rain, this cooled us down considerably but when the heavens opened up it became impossible to write on the soggy paper. It didn't matter anyway as very few of the questions could be answered. Perhaps we should have swatted-up on the Daily Mirror Book of Useless Facts that has been lying around the Commcen for years. We still don't know what the capital of Tutong is (where is Tutong anyway?). After taxing our brains and leaving us dumbfounded we moved onto the Basic Signalling Skills Stand where

Regt UBR Team 12—WRAC Members
From left to right: Pte Shepherd, Sgt Rimmer, LCpls King, Calabrese, Pte Jane and LCpl Cheshire—'Glad it's over'

we knew we would have no trouble, or so we thought. At this Stand we had to erect a 12ft mast, make contact with a Distant Station and pass messages using BATCO; another task was making a cup of tea for the DS. This is where **WLCpl King** excelled herself by making the worst cup of tea on record. Needless to say the DS were glad to see the back of us. We then marched 'merrily' onto the last Stand which we considered the hardest, Map Reading. Now we all thought we were capable Map Readers, but the wording of the questions and the 90°F heat didn't help. However **YofS Townsend, Cpl Littlewood** and **WLCpl Cheshire** proved to be our saviours as our team gained the highest points on this Stand. Map Reading finished, we then had to make haste to the finishing point to complete the course.

We were all starting to feel the heat and **WPte Shepherd** carried on gamely although suffering from sore feet. On nearing the finish several of the teams that had already finished cheered and congratulated us for doing so well. We all thought that this was a very nice gesture. Although we came last (but not by many points), we received a big cheer from all present when we received the prize for the team which made the best effort.

WARRANT PRESENTATION

The CO **Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE** presented Warrants to **WO2 (YofS) K. A. Townsend** and **WO2 Keshar Limbu** on 4 August 1988, at a small ceremony in 247 Gurkha Signal Sqn lines.

The photograph shows (left to right): **WO2 (SSM) Rupbahadur Gurung, Capt (QGO Ratnabahadur Pun, WO2 Keshar Limbu, Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE, WO2 (YofS) K. A. Townsend, Maj R. D. Price** and **Lt (QGO) Keshbahadur Gurung.**

HQ 12 Sig Bde (V)

Rather to everyone's surprise, **Brig Tom Wheawell**'s tour as Comd 12 Sig Bde (V) came to an end recently.

Since he took command the Brigade has, largely by dint of his efforts, been re-equipped with the magic Euromux. For the uninitiated this is a communication system offering the staff an array of facilities including super push button phones which sing and dance for an encore, although quite why the Brigadier needed a phone, any phone, is a mystery to everyone in Brigade Headquarters. Nonetheless, he brought to the task the same enthusiasm and drive which made us all think he has been, and will be, with us forever. Hence the surprise when we discovered that he was decamping for the astral plains of the Directorate.

Amongst a series of farewells which culminated in his formal dining out by the assembled officers of the Brigade at a Dinner Night at Blandford during Ex Skippers Review, his Headquarters put in a bid for a FIRST. Innovative as ever, we invited him and his wife, **Roz**, to be dined out by his Headquarters—in his own office. Now we claim **Roz** as our own. The precursor of happier times to come, she first made her mark by distracting **Brig Wheawell** during his first TA exercise to such an extent as to make our lives liveable. Subsequently she has cooled the furrowed brow and controlled his exuberance on all, well almost all, things—football and non-football. Definitely **Roz** is on our side.

The photograph shows our Deputy Commander, **Col Nick Henwood** presenting a memento from the Headquarters. It is a Euromux key pad which, at the touch of a button, shows 'HQ 12 Sig Bde (V)' on the display for a full 20 seconds. This timing, incidentally, could be said to be highly appropriate as it has been observed that to date no one has managed to get the Brigade Headquarters to light up for longer. Note also that, like its real life equivalent, it requires the close supervision of 'Jimmy'.

Amongst those bidding farewell to **Brig Tom Wheawell** were **Col Mike Upson** and his wife **Alison, Maj** (retired—but don't rely on it) **Ken Harvey** and all the Brigadiers' current staff including the newest addition, **LCpl Brian Turner** and his wife, **Sue**. We were also all given a chance to meet **Kristel**, fiancée to our SO2 Tels, **Maj Douglas McLay**. Another romance which burgeoned on exercise (plain sailing, this time). And that, also, was the name of the exercise! Must be something in the water at Krefeld . . .

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

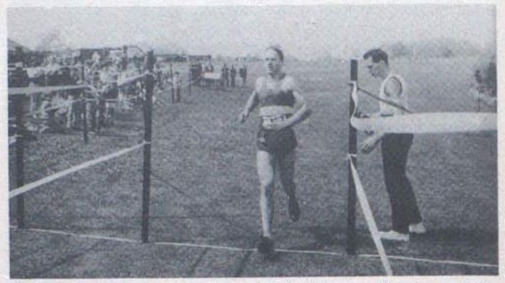
BLANDFORD TOWER RUN

The third Blandford Tower Run took place on Sunday 15 May and lived up to its' growing reputation as an enjoyable and challenging event. Over 400 runners took part, which was rather less than in 1987 but still a very respectable field. Entrants came back from a wide variety of backgrounds, both civilian and military, and the two categories of juniors and veterans were well supported. There was even a member of the WRNS!

The weather was perfect for running, with sunshine, a gentle breeze, and a light rain shower at the start to clear the air. The 14 mile route through Cranborne Chase provided some glorious scenery, and at the finish point near the foot of the Radio Tower in Blandford Camp there was a good turnout of spectators to cheer in the runners.

First overall was **Pte Webb** of the RRW, and in second place was **Cpl Smith** of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. **Cpl Smith**'s Squadron were also overall R Signals team winners.

Next year's event will coincide with the Corps Reunion weekend again, and will take place on Sunday 21 May 1989. Further details will be published towards the end of this year. Make a note in your diaries now!



Pte Webb of the Royal Regiment of Wales, overall winner of the 1988 Blandford Tower run, in a time of 1 hr 19 min 20 sec

410 runners set off at the start of the 1988 Blandford Tower Run

Cpl G. Smith, of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, second overall in the 1988 Blandford Tower Run, in a time of 1 hr 23 min 14 sec

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 12 pictured below

No 12 Royal Signals Troop Commanders—20 June-26 October 1988

Back Row L to R: 2Lts A. S. Addison (Andrew), W. E. H. Adsett (Bill), B. Alderson (Bryan), B. Appleby (Brett), M. C. Burke (Mike), R. B. Forrest (Robert), G. R. Grant (Gavin), C. J. McIntoch (Chris), L. J. Mitchell (Lance) and R. L. Munro (Bob)

Front Row L to R: Capt E. Newnham (Elaine), 2Lts E. J. C. Pascoe (Emma), S. M. Payne (Simon), A. D. J. Picknell (Tony), Lt C. J. Porteous (Christopher), 2Lts B. M. Pulverman (Bridget), A. P. Scott (Andrew), I. A. Walton (Ian) and S. S. M. Youngson (Scott)

Berlin Sig Regt
BFPO 45

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

The Swimming and Water Polo squads have notched up a few successes recently. We won the Berlin Infantry Brigade minor units swimming championships on 2 June and also the Brigade (open) water polo. Both competitions were good, close events with the Regiment narrowly beating the old adversaries 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE in both. Team captain, **WO2 (SSM) Andy Wilson** was thrown into the pool after the prize giving, in what was to be his first ducking of the season.

BAOR minor units swimming competition was next, again held on 'home ground' at the Berlin Stadium barracks pool. After a nail biting contest where we trailed behind 12 Armd Wksp all the way, our team tactics won in the end and we emerged as winners, by one point after the final relay. We were not so lucky in the Water Polo, beaten by 16 Sig Regt at the semi final stage. Playing with one man short, the team fought back from 6—1 down to 7—7 but 16 scored the winning goal as the final whistle blew.

Tails up, we headed for the Army minor unit competition at Guildford, hoping for a repeat of 1987 when we won the trophy. Sadly we managed third place behind a very strong 7 Regt AAC (first) and 12 Armd Wksp REME who avenged their defeat in the BAOR stage.

The individual championships saw **LCpl Duncan Ledger** win the 100m breaststroke in a near record time of 1.10.72. **LCpl Ledger** was selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services.

At various times, the following have trained with the squads and represented the Regiment: **Maj McColville, WO2 (SSM) Wilson, Sgt Murphy, Cpls Ager, Townsend, Ashley, Hughes, Collins, Smith, Metherell, LCpls Blair, Wright, Sig Smith, Watson** and **Scholes.**

Team Captain WO2 (SSM) Andy Wilson receiving the BAOR Minor Units Swimming Champions Trophy from the secretary of BAOR Swimming

Looking on are Sgt Michael Murphy and Cpl John Ashley

STOP PRESS—PROJECT CORVUS

On Wednesday 3 August, **Mr Cyril Hughes** of the Berlin Telecommunications Office, 4 Sig Gp signed a contract with Racal Elecktronik System Gmbh for the new Switched Area Network for Berlin. The contract will provide an up to date, mobile trunk system for the British Sector. Main sub-contractor will be Racal Tacticom Systems Ltd of Reading. The contract has been given the title Project Corvus in honour of the many Hooded Crows which are seen around Berlin. We trust the system will be as strong and speedy as the crows but not as noisy!

1 Sqn Battle Camp

A picture is worth a thousand words! Sig King suggesting that the photographer had two shots left? We regret that no-one has owned up to the rear view

Cpl Reed and Cpl Stacey prove you can do it with your eyes closed. Being briefed are, *left to right*, Cpl Crabb, Sig Jukes, LCpl Navesey and Cpl Atkinson

'You want us to do what?'

After the run on the CFT (in 75°F) and before the 100m carry *Left to right:* WO2 (SSM) Wilson, Cpl Chapman, Maj McColville, Cpl Pinkney, Cpl McLaughlin adjusts his dress!

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

In the last issue it was mentioned that three soldiers were involved in a serious car accident. Unfortunately **Sig Davies** is still seriously ill, however **Sig Chapman** is on sick leave at home and **Sig Littler** is recovering on sick leave in Verden.

1 SQUADRON

The months of June and July were hectic. The Squadron spent two weeks in Minden of Ex High Pass, the SLMB (Systems Level Modification B) implementation exercise. After a three day pause for breath, we were in the field again on Ex Summer Sales and up against 22 SAS. Despite much trepidation, the Squadron's defences proved to be remarkably effective, of which more later. A week after peace was declared, the Squadron paid its annual visit to Vogelsang Training Area on battlecamp. Very well done to all members of the Squadron for two months solid work.

There have been many changes in the last two months. The Squadron bade farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Hegarty** and **WO2 (YofS) Dave Taylor**, both of whom were posted on promotion to WO1. Congratulations and very good luck in the future. The Troops have been re-named as part of a move to standardise Divisional Signal Regiments. The warlike Eagle, Falcon, Hawk and Kestrel are dead: long live the evocative and stirring Echo, Foxtrot, Golf and Hotel. Obviously no bird lovers at Corps Headquarters.

E TROOP

Summer Sales was very much an anti-climax for TNO41: no contact with the enemy and not enough moves. After a pleasant weekend in a hide on top of a mountain, we were deployed in support of Corps Rear . . . what did we do wrong? There were some lighter moments however such as **Cpl Twigger**'s demonstration of arming pot flares. **Sig Boyle**, who after spending the entire night failing to get a shot in, learned the difference between band two and three antennas. In Node Command **SSgt Warhurst** and **Sgt Shenton** held the fort while the OC and **Cpl 'Kev' Gardiner** patrolled the countryside looking for the exercise enemy.

A week later on battlecamp, morale was kept up by incidents like **Sig Dow** falling off the assault course and breaking his wrist in two places. The troop formed a platoon of three sections, one of which was commanded by an old warhorse **Cpl Fagan**. Winners in the nickname competition were **Sig 'Spick' Barton, Sig Clark** (platoon runner) and **Sig 'Chippy' Wood**.

F TROOP

The troop had a good Ex Summer Sales, one of the better exercises with most people learning something. **Cpl 'Graham' Preece** can now covertly move a portaloo between locations, **Cpl 'Jeff' Jones** can set a trip flare and the ERV crew can stay awake 1 hour in 24. We even had a fight with the SAS.

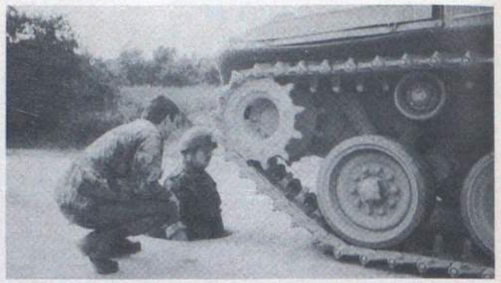
Farewell from the troop to **Cpl 'Tez' Brown** and **Sig Steve Ridley** who went to 4 Div on promotion.

G TROOP

Ex High Pass was characterised by extremes in the weather: **Lt Pople** found his true vocation digging drainage ditches in the complex. More problems with water on the hill where **Sig 'Slim' Clement** entertained the Radio Relay Ops by using a baby bath.

Ex Summer Sales had its ups and downs, especially for **SSgt Ardern** who can now give lessons in rapid dismounting from a vehicle, plaster cast and crutches supplied on request. Incidentally, he is also an expert at fixing defective PCU GOULDS. **Sig Richards** now performs tree surgery with his Radio Relay det. The troop was taught how to survive in a hide . . . move every five hours about ½km each time.

Battlecamp was a success for the Troop. **Sig Jones** trialled the new anti-tank helmet.



This man-hole is definitely too small for me, Staff

SSgt Peter Griffin and LCpl 'Geordie' Hogg wondering who gave 2Lt Roberts the technical kit to play with

H TROOP

Now that the troops have been re-named, we are alphabetically junior to G Troop but as TNO61 numerically senior to TNO71. Very confusing and it got worse when someone dubbed Hotel Tp the 'Bed-and-Breakfast' Tp. At least we fought off the SAS on Summer Sales with our pyro and later our shouted 'bang-bangs'. This was also **Lt 'Harriet' Makepeace**'s last exercise. As he was the swimming officer, we thought it appropriate that he took a dip in a ditch filled with the best that our cookhouse could offer.

LCpl 'Shere' Ali honoured us with his presence on battlecamp for the first time ever, but lived to regret it on the tank over-run. The first day involved a patrol competition which **Cpl 'Weasel' Kempton**'s section was a few hours late in finishing. **Sig Tom Hoare** was heard to say . . . 'I told them not to give me the compass'.

2 SQUADRON

The first item of interest the Squadron has to report took place at the end of May and was our first Squadron training day of 1988. The idea of the training day was to give both troops an insight into how the other lives. The photograph shows **SSM Ashwell** trying to explain to **Sgt Wray** that he does understand all about Clansman and rebros with **LCpl 'Quiffy' Shaw** looking on. Since then life has seemed somewhat hectic. June started with a lull before the storm in the form of the Squadron barbecue. The weather was good and the food was almost on time—well done **Sgt Bowker**.

The end of the barbecue saw the start of a steady period of preparation for Ex Summer Sales (at least it started off steady!). This Summer Sales was going to be different: we could expect to have to move very often, to be attacked by Shsh! you know who and have NBC attacks coming out of our ears. Consequently our training was aimed at combatting these threats. It is probably fortunate that the final threat (that of being sprayed with coloured water from Alpha jets) was not forthcoming as the CO would probably not have been that impressed with our defence plan. Apparently one cannot use umbrellas whilst in uniform.

SSgt (FofS) Richardson and SSgt Peter Griffin trialling the new NBC headwear

Summer Sales did not start with a bang but with a bit of a dribble really. Instead of the normal early Monday morning move out, we hung around until Tuesday—not many people complained however.

The exercise went well for the Squadron; we saw no sign of the enemy although they may have seen us! but I doubt it. Despite our success everyone was pleased with the cry of 'Endex' although we had been warned of its imminent arrival by the Squadron wives!

After just a week (less for some) the Squadron was off again down to sunny Vogelsang and battlecamp. We left early on Saturday morning in heavy rain which came down with us and stayed for a day or two. The first full day saw some remarkable efforts on the CFT and patrol competition, which eventually ended around 2100 hrs. Everyone enjoyed the week, which included firing the SA80 (the first time for many), the well publicised tank overrun (not as bad as it sounds) and for some the throwing of grenades and petrol bombs. By the end of the week everyone was extremely tired and looking forward to some sleep, less physical effort and certainly a few beers. The last evening was more enjoyable due to a barbecue which proved to be a flowing affair! Not everyone came back to Verden, SHQ Tp went straight down to Moosbach, Bavaria, to do some adventurous training. At the time of writing no reports had been received and SHQ Tp are believed to have been 'lost in action!'.

Sadly we have to say farewell to a few people: **Capt 'Sailing' Steve Herstell, SSgt (FofS) Dean Allen** on promotion, **SSgt (YofS) Frank McCubbin** who goes to the TA in London, **Sgt Nige Green, Cpl Bob Marshall** on promotion to 3 Sqn and the beloved panzers and **Cpl Westhoff** also to 3 Sqn. Farewell to you all and you take with you our best wishes for the future. Don't worry—I have not forgotten those on detachments to places like the Falkland Islands, **Sig 'Isaac' Newton** for one; and for one lucky person, **Sgt Mick Wray**, a few months down under in sunny Australia.

With all these people leaving we have some new comers to welcome. After reaching into the 'lucky dip' I came out with a few names. Welcome to: **SSgt Mick Tucker** who takes over as FofS, also to **SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson** and **Sgt John Martin** who moves into the infamous 2 Sqn MT office. At some stage we should also be seeing **Sgt Phil Parker** from 3 Sqn who comes to us on promotion, welcome. Finally we must not forget **Sgt 'Hoh de Hoh' Pardew** who arrived a few weeks ago to gain experience before going on his Yeoman's course. And a very warm welcome to **SSgt Lickess** from Australia who replaces **Sgt Wray** for five months.

That's about it for this month, farewells and hellos completed and my apologies to anyone I've forgotten. If you wish to be included in the next issue just send your information and name to OC P Troop on the back of a DM50 note!

3 SQUADRON

The Squadron has had an easy last two months, except for Ex High Pass the RMCS Demonstration, Ex Summer Sales and Battlecamp. As this left two and a half weeks when the Squadron was not involved as a whole or part in military exercises, it was decided to try our hand at some adventurous training.

NOVEMBER TROOP
EXERCISE NOVEMBER DIAMOND

The exercise took place in Moosback in the Bavarian Alps. The students were split into three groups. Each group remaining with the same activity all week to enable individuals to experience more than a basic introduction to the activity.

CANOEING

Six canoeists under **Sgt Ray Bray** spent a week sampling the waters of Bavaria. They started with an introduction to canoeing and safety in and on (and under!) the water, but ended the week with confident descents of white water.

MOUNTAINEERING AND ROCK CLIMBING

The Bavarian Alps are a bit hilly! If anyone was asked to walk along a 2ft wide path there wouldn't be too much trouble. However carve away a 3,000ft drop on one side and a very steep slope on the other and the nerves can be tested! Anyone not believing this should try some of the ridge routes around the area. Because five days were dedicated to the high level mountaineering, every member of the group attained the Obersdorf Sports Councils bronze mountaineering award. Also included in the weeks activities were river crossings 'a bit wet' and climbing 'a bit steep'. However the time was appreciated by all and characters were suitably built.

OC Maj Brian Scott-Morton and SSgt Kevin Froggett on top of the world

Cpl Dave 'Marigold' Stewart after Adventurous training

OSCAR TROOP

June saw Div II of the RMCS visit. The officers flew out to Germany and were shown around a Divisional Main Headquarters including the associated radio and radio relay. The set up may be commonplace for the readers of this magazine but to most of the Staff Officers it was a first view of the complicated and comprehensive communications that we provide.

On Ex Summer Sales the troop unlike the past few exercises was stepped up for most of the time. **Sig Stuart Simpson** straight from Harrogate joined the troop one and a half hours before deploying on the exercise. At a quiet moment sitting on top of a 432 he was heard to say 'Any chance of learning to drive one of these things?' little does he know.

On Ex Oscar Diamond (identical to Ex November Diamond) **Cpl 'Taff' Burn, LCpl 'Shorty' Dewer, Sig 'Georgie' Gallagher, 'Tommo' Thompson** and **'Rollo' Robinson** all did well to be awarded their canoeing certificates.

LINE TROOP

The troop returned from Ex Summer Sales in high spirits as **Cpl 'Bungle' Joll, LCpl 'Iceman' Mabbot** and **LCpl 'Shaggy' Larkin** celebrated their last exercise with the troop. **Cpl Arthur Chadwick** has also done his last exercise with the Regiment now. We send our congratulations to him on his promotion and our best wishes to him and his wife as they leave us for 7 Sig Regt. Congratulations also to **Cpl Sala** on his recent promotion.

TM TROOP

The past two months have been very busy in the troop with exercise commitments and members coming and going. The main social event of the post couple of months was the Garrison Saddle Club where the troop ran the bar 'hic' as normal. The dress worn by certain members of the troop was sufficient to drive anyone to drink, in particular **Cpl 'Rick' Cave** and **Sgt 'Pete' Farrington** excelled themselves with the most obnoxious shirts and shorts possible. Luckily for us these two pioneers of bad taste have left to go to sunny Blandford and Lisburn respectively.

With these two going a warm welcome is extended to **Cpls 'Rick' Howard** and **'Kitch' Kitchener**, we hope you have a good tour here.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron welcomes the new arrivals **Sgt Paul Marshall** (on promotion), **Cpls Chris Gleadow, Allan Westhoff, LCpl David Lydford, Sig 'Smudge' Smith, Craig Walker, Mark Elphic** and **Stuart Simpson**.

For some it is the first tour straight from training, for others it is not quite such a traumatic experience. However, it is hoped they will all enjoy their time in Verden. Some of those who have had their fun and have moved on are **Sgt Ray Bray** (to 12 Bde), **Sgt Andy Bailey** (on promotion) and **LCpl Stevie Chinn** who has left to become a civilian.

QM TECH DEPARTMENT

Many changes in personnel over recent months have resulted in a new look department. Sad farewells have been said to the following stalwarts: **Maj Jimmy Akehurst, LCpl Ian Wallace, Sig 'Taff' Evans, Alan Shields, LCpl Paul Culley** and **Sig Phil Waters** (to 212 Sig Sqn).

To replace the above was almost impossible, however the following are doing their very best: **Capt Mick Ledwards, LCpls Eddie Gajny, Mark Viles, Sig Ken Rayson** and **LCpl Martyn Warrington** (from 212 Sig Sqn).

Welcome to the department to all new arrivals and their families. Also a welcome return to **LCpl Selby** who, after six months in the sunny climes of Belize, has settled back into real soldiering.

SPORT

The departments trophy cabinet has recently received contributions from the QM and RQMS (Runners up Div Tennis) and **Cpl Schollick** (Football). The QM and RQMS have been warned about the losing habit and have promised to do better on the cricket, golf and badminton scene. **LCpl Vile** and **Gajny** will undoubtedly make their contributions once the cross-country season starts.

BARBECUE

At the end of July a barbecue was organised as a farewell to **Sgt Billy Ogden** and **LCpl Paul Culley**. A superb day, well organised and blessed with good weather resulted in everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. The anticipated hour long speech promised by **Billy Ogden** on his favourite postings never materialised. In truth he just about managed a quick thank you before emotion got the better of him.

LCpl Paul Culley concluded with a quick demonstration on sky diving down three steps without parachute. With more practice he could well master this new found hobby. Until then he must continue to pay regular visits to the MI room.

Good luck to them and their families on their next tour.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

First our sad farewells to those who have left for pastures new and to them all we extend our best wishes for the future and our thanks for their contributions to the Squadron during their tour. They are **WO2 (SSM) Mick Boyle** — now RSM at 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt; **Sgt Keith Emmerson** and **Cpl Monty Montgomery** who are off to the Yeomans Course for their high level flying licence. **Cpl Chris Rix RPC** to 187 Coy and **LCpls Eddie Waring** and **Scott** to the Regiment at Verden.

The Squadron says hello to the new arrivals and wishes them an enjoyable stay with '201'. They are **WO2 (SSM) Tomlinson, Sgt Simmonds, Cpl Forbes,** and **Sig Smith, Clements, Winder, Abel, Greenwood, Hunt, Medly** and **Bristow.**

EXERCISE STAGS LEAP

This was the first of the Squadron's adventure training activities this year and was a basic weeks introduction course. Pursuits covered were:- rockclimbing, canoeing, and hill walking. Two courses were run over the fortnight and were aimed at assessing potential instructors.

The camp was held at the Regimental adventure training hut at Moosbach in the Bavarian Alps. Many members of the Squadron managed to take part in the adventure training pursuits and enjoyed themselves tremendously, although **LCpl Colin Ramsden** did have difficulty moving his left foot in the rockface at one point but a stern word from **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** soon saw him climbing again.

It was noted that **Sgt Kev Ludkin** was able to use six points of contact as he hill walked across the Klettering Ridge and **Lt Jon Watt** doesn't want to see the Rubihorn again. The OC, on his three day visit, managed to take part in all the activities and even entrusted his life to **Cpl 'KP' Wright** on a Tyreleons Crossing. The second group unfortunately had an initial dampener to their activities when three inches of snow fell. **Cpl 'Disco' Todd** found use for an umberella and **LCpl Dave Corkett** almost had his skis out. **Cpl John Evans** and **Sig Harold Coates** managed to get themselves put forward as potential ACU instructors.

Lt Watt and Cpl Wright prepare to move up to the first pitch on a rock climb

EXERCISE YELLOW PRAIRIE

Ex Yellow Prairie was the pre BATUS test exercise for 2 R Anglian Battle Group held at Soltau. As well as providing the usual control HQ the Squadron managed to provide a scaled down Platoon for enemy under **Capt Flint** and **Sgt Somers.** The lads certainly learned a lot about armoured infantry tactics.

EXERCISE SUMMER SALES

Due to a slow start on the exercise the Squadron car rally was able to take place according to plan even though we were ready to go on exercise the day before. Congratulations go to **Sig Phil Humphries** in his Manta GTE for winning. Once this great event was over we were able to concentrate on the exercise and despite **LCpl Roger Heath's** inability to move his magic wand and produce more HF Quad and the discovery of a Radio Relay Bermuda Triangle the exercise went well. **SSgt Pete Smith** denied wearing studded leathers on the echelon motorbike and **Sgt Kev Ludkin** and his gallant pioneers managed to land nearly every helicopter in 1 (BR) Corps, but didn't manage the YofS, and so provided an excellent 24 hr escort agency.

SHOOTING TEAM

Despite a promising start the team under **LCpl Martin Basford** were unable to maintain their outstanding record across the channel at the RSSAAM and at Bisley. However we hope to go back next year and regain our trophies.

SPORT

Rugby finally finished and out came the cricket whites, even though we haven't played a game yet. Our participation in the Morrison Cup was not as successful as we had hoped, but **Capt Bob Sharp** won the High Jump and **Cpl Chris Price** the Long and Triple Jump.

In the Brigade Athletics competition it was a hard struggle against 1 Armd Div Fd Amb but congratulations goes to the following winners:- **Capt Bob Sharp** High Jump, **Cpl Chris Price** Triple Jump, **Pte Ronnie Corbett** Javelin, and **LCpl Dave Jack** Long Jump.

PROMOTIONS

Our warmest congratulations to the following recently selected for promotion. To Sergeant: **Cpl Monty Montgomery,** to Corporal: **LCpl Dave Bousfield,** to Lance Corporal: **Sig Steve Tindall, Sammy Faulds, Paul Ryder, Dave Knapman** and **Dvr Gearbox Neary.** Congratulations also to **FofS Jay Allen** and **Cpl Bob Anthony** for their new LOA earners and **LCpl Gearbox Neary** on his recent marriage to **Cath.**

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

For the second year running the Squadron participated in the four day Nijmegen Marches. The team led by **Lt Jon Watt** and **Sig Frank Campbell** completed the 100 mile march around Nijmegen in Holland. Despite the bad weather morale remained high even though on day three **Dobbo Dobson** was heard to mutter that he had always thought that Holland was flat until he encountered the seven hills of Nijmegen.

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

THE MORRISON CUP AND SPORT

The Squadron has continued its' strong sporting tradition with an unprecedented win in the Morrison Cup, beating more strongly fancied teams. It was a nail biting affair, with the result resting on the final event, the 4 x 400m relay. The Squadron eventually triumphed over 200 Sig Sqn by the grand margin of one point. Results were as follows:-

Triple Jump	2nd	**Cpl Whitehead**
5,000m	4th	
Javelin	6th	
800m	3rd	
400m	1st	**Cpl Clarke**
High Jump	3rd	
100m	3rd	
400m Hurdles	5th	
Discus	8th	
Shot Put	5th	
Long Jump	3rd	
200m	1st	**LCpl Leighton**
1,500m	3rd	
4 x 400m	2nd	**LCpls Pallet, North, Hope, Cpl Clarke**

As if this wasn't enough, the Squadron found time to become the 7 Armd Bde athletics champions to come third in the Div athletics, and fourth in the BAOR. In the pool, we managed to come equal third in the Bde championships, and our cricket team looks set to frighten the West Indies! Meanwhile the football team begins to limber up . . .

MORRISON CUP WINNERS 1988
(Left to Right) Standing: OC, Cpls Mackenzie, Clarke, LCpl Pallett, Cpl North, LCpl Crook, Cpl Grant, LCpl Leighton and 2Lt Forrest
Kneeling: LCpl Hope, Cpl Whitehead, Sgt Forbes, Sig Duncan and Cpl Tanner

VISITS

After the visit by Comd 1 (BR) Corps in April, the Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies,** visited us on 13 June. The General signed the same visitors' book which had been signed by Field Marshal Montgomery over 40 years ago. Before touring the Squadron the General paused to examine the Squadron's bulging sports trophy collection. Comd Comms concluded his visit with lunch in the the Sergeants' Mess, where he had an opportunity to meet the Officers and SNCOs of the Squadron.

The OC, Maj John Willis, whistles the R Signals march to Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge KCB. The Bde Comd has heard it before

ALPHA TROOP

The Troop bade farewell to **LCpl Mick Delaney** and **Cpl Geoff Hodgson** and welcomed **Cpl 'Dusty' Millar** and **Sig Birdsall.** We wish them all the best for their next tours, and also hope that new arrivals enjoy their stay.

The Troop has had a busy time with a number of exercises getting in the way of important Troop activities such as barbecues and sports afternoons! **Lt Matthew Edwards** has been heard muttering that he never knew that life as a Troop Commander would actually involve work! **SSgt Graham Miles** has had a tough time keeping the Troop Office tidy and ensuring that the Troop OC's kit was smart enough for the Freedom Parade. In between it all, the Troop found time to win the football and volleyball trophies at the recent inter-Troop Sports Day. More importantly, we beat Bravo Troop for the overall Trophy!

BRAVO TROOP

Since July, we have said goodbye to **Cpl Fitzpatrick** on his promotion and posting to Harrogate. We also extend a warm welcome to **Cpl 'Iyra' Hayes** and **Sig O'Brien** from Catterick (who arrived just

in time to put on his NBC kit and join the Troop on Ex Summer Sales!). Congratulations also to **LCpl Blanchard,** who achieved a good result on his Det Commanders Course. We also welcome Troop Commander, **Lt David Hudson,** fresh from six months as RSO with the Royal Hussars. Rumour has it that **SSgt Kev Lodge** already has him well in hand — no more smoked salmon for him when on exercise!

The Troop has recently returned from a number of exercises, only to put the vehicles away, and put the best kit on for the Freedom of Soltau Parade. **Lt David Hudson** lost the battle to wear Blues on the Parade to **Lt Matthew Edwards** who claimed that he needed a dress rehearsal for his wedding next month! Anyway the Parade went well, and a very good Squadron family party was enjoyed by all.

Finally, the Troop fought a close battle with Alpha Troop and Bde HQ at the inter-Troop Sports Day and eventually won the hockey and tug of war, narrowly losing overall to Alpha Troop. At least we beat Bde HQ!

THE FREEDOM OF SOLTAU PARADE

As Summer Sales yawned to a close, the Squadron began to turn its attention to the Freedom of Soltau Parade scheduled for 23 July. Instead of the rumbling of panzers, Bournemouth Barracks rang with the sound of marching boots and the gentle cries of drill instructors. Disaster nearly struck when the OC, **Maj John Willis,** lost his voice two days before the Parade . . . that will teach him to shout at the Squadron! Eventually all was ready, and even the weather was excellent. Thousands of Germans and many tourists watched the Parade which went very well. It was followed by a champagne reception and a Squadron party. Having looked at the Parade photographs, it would seem that the wise guy who said that the Squadron had become the Gnome Squadron may have a point! . . .

The barber's down here somewhere 'Sir'

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

EX BAGUETTE DIAMOND 1988

An adventure training exercise run in the French Pyrenees

Lt Richard Butlin
Sgt Paul Wickham
Cpl Sally Fawcett
Cpl Steve Beaumont (12 Armd Wksp)
Cpl Sponge Pattenden
LCpl Angie Naylor
LCpl Tony Brook
LCpl Sammy Caughey
LCpl Rick Griffiths
Sig Jason Werner

On a wet and blustery morning 10 intrepid pioneers led by **Lt Butlin** departed from Osnabruck, destination the Pyrenees. After 996 miles and 27 hours of trying to find positions to sleep, we arrived dazed and bewildered at Fos.

The next morning we set off for the first stage of our trek across the 'Perilous Pyrenees'. Our rear party, **Sgt Paul Wickham** and **LCpl Paul Griffiths,** waved us Bon Voyage with a grin that should have told us more than it did. What they knew and we didn't was just how far and high we were about to walk. After a few metres the truth finally dawned on us that these hills weren't hills but mountains and we made our way, slowly, from 990m to 2,180m.

When we workers had finally reached the end of the first day's walking, even the clouds and birds were lower than we were! **LCpl Sammy Caughey** exclaimed with delight when he sighted a helicopter, 'Oh transport down', 'Sorry', said our illustrious leader, 'We're walking, that's the way sane people get there'.

'It's all the way down for the second day', they promised us. But, we soon discovered that going down was just as difficult as going up. We discovered that we were being followed, or rather overtaken by two Dutch women. When we finally made it down, the road party were ready with cold drinks and transport to our next camp site. We decided on a shorter route for the next day. Shorter it might have been but no less difficult and who should be behind us, our friendly Dutch counterparts, unfortunately we didn't see them again after that.

The next day we made good time to our pre-arranged location. Because of the lack of water and the heat, **Lt Butlin** had decided we should stay for a few hours and carry on when it was a bit cooler, so we set up our tents and had our afternoon Fiesta, oops sorry, Siesta. The afternoon passed quietly.

Around 1700 hrs we packed up and carried on our way led by 'Pathfinder' **Pattenden.** After a detour we arrived at our camp for the night, the term 'camp' may have been used rather lightly as it was more like a cow field on the side of a hill. Tired bodies were fed and watered and retired for the night.

We battled with the problem of the best way to sleep in a tent which was situated at an angle only used by bats until sleep overtook us anyway. The next morning we reached our pick up point well before the road party was due to arrive, could it be that we were getting faster. The sight which greeted us was of a stream and grass to stretch out on until our transport arrived. Everyone made the most of this opportunity and some were brave enough to immerse themselves fully in the freezing water.

On Sunday morning we set off at 0400 hrs. Two hours later we arrived at the bottom of our final ascent. The weather was wet and misty which was a godsend as we couldn't see where we were going which was, yes you've guessed it up and up and up. The climb started off fairly easily however, but it soon turned into a near vertical climb. Suddenly, coming down at a much faster rate than we were travelling was the French version of the Six Million Dollar man, in running kit, trainers and with a gas mask strapped to his back. Everyone stared in awe, and we thought we were mad. Not long after blue sky was spotted above us and within 30 seconds the mist had completely cleared. It was as though a higher authority had looked down on us and decided it was about time we could see just how high we had climbed and one of the most amazing experiences we all ever had. We finally arrived at Etang Fourcat, which was where we took a break, had a drink and all signed the visitors book.

We'd made very good time up to this point and then embarked on the dreaded 'High Altitude Route'. This stage of our journey took us across Scree and up and down some very steep slopes and across snow while the sun beat down upon us.

That night we camped by a lake, and as night came down the wind rose. We all felt the cold for the first time since we had arrived in France, but after a quick tea everyone retired for the night after a very hard but rewarding days walking.

The next morning, we set off slowly to reach our final peak at 2,601m.

'I've been told' related **Lt Butlin** 'that when we get to the top, the difference between France and Andora is amazing'. Well we looked, compared and debated and came to the conclusion that Andora looked just like France, hills and more hills.

Everyone piled into the mini bus for the trip to the South of France and some well earned R and R. After yet another long, harrowing journey we arrived at Marseillan plage. **Lt Butlin, Sgt Wickham** and **LCpl Caughey** went in search of a campsite. After a long wait the trio returned telling us they had had no luck and we would have to go straight on to Osnabruck. Faces dropped as we proceeded. Could it be they were having a little joke on our behalf?

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT
THE WINNING MAJOR UNITS TEAM IN THE ARMY INTER UNIT ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
HELD IN ALDERSHOT ON 19 JULY 1988

Back Row: WO1 (RSM) O'Brien, Lt Col J. H. Griffin, LCpl Henry, Cpl Callender, SSgt George, LCpls Francis, Collins, Bartliff, Sgt Killen, Cpl Dobson and Maj N. M. Grieves
Middle Row: Cpl Kelly, LCpls Key, Curtis, Austen, Capt J. Richardson and LCpl Baldwin
Front Row: Sig Perry, Sgt Newell, LCpl Speight, Sig McSween, LCpls Freeman and Vile

FORWARD—WO1 (RSM) T. N. O'BRIEN

Since our last contribution, the Regiment has been extremely busy on many diverse tasks, not least on exercise in BAOR with our new GOC **Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE**.

To celebrate the completion of the summer exercises and to thank the members of the Regiment for their hard work, the CO authorised expenditure on a Regimental Smoker which was organised by the new SSM HQ Sqn, **WO2 Pete Harburn,** late APTC. The evening was a great success and our thanks go to all who helped with it.

There followed a very hectic weekend in which the Regimental Athletics Team retained both the Morrison Cup (UK) and the Army Athletics Trophy. Well done the athletes!

The other items of note were the Cross Channel Windsurfing attempt, led by SSM 2 Sqn, **WO2 Steve Harrison,** in aid of charity, a KAPE tour by 15 Bde Sig Tp and the installation of the new stained glass windows in the Sergeants' Mess. The RSM and all Mess Members would like to thank all those who kindly helped towards the cost of these.

KAPE TOUR REPORT

15 Inf Bde Sig Tp volunteered to provide the unit KAPE Team to tour North East District from 25 April to 6 May 1988, much to the disgust of the rest of the Regiment as the Troop had been lucky enough to have had the pleasure the previous year. After a lot of strenuous pre-KAPE tour preparation, the team departed for Middlesbrough on 25 April under the careful direction of **Lt Martin 'Digger' Barnes**. The first few days of the tour saw the team touring the local schools which was an eye opener for most of the soldiers on the tour. The priority was not so much recruiting the youngsters as preventing them walking away with all the kit. The result of these school visits were a lot of nervous people glad to be going on to more civilised places. The next visit was to the TA to do a small display for them. Needless to say, the team made 'spirited' efforts to maintain relations between the TA and the Regular Army. The rest of the tour took us to various shows in the Middlesbrough area and then down the east coast ending up in Scarborough.

The event was enjoyed by all those concerned and the Army was definitely kept in the public eye.

M TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING

Report by SSgt Ikin

After an abortive attempt to go abroad the Troop decided to spend its only free week in South Wales using the Training Camp at Cwyrt-y-Gollen as base.

The week was split up into two main activities, a day of rock climbing, abseiling and caving, followed by two days hill-walking in the Brecon Beacons.

Morlaise Quarry near Merthyr Tydfil was the venue for the first day's activities. The rock climbing proved to be the most popular, partly I am sure, due to the instructor, **WCpl Sadie Hughes**. The weather was excellent which made a change from the now familiar rain!

All members of the group attempted the rock climbing and abseiling. Some of the braver ones leapt off the Morlaise viaduct. A truly horrendous sight, certainly not for the faint hearted!

'But Sir, you never told me it was all the way to the bottom!'

The hill walking was spent taking in such sights as Pen-y-Fan, Cribyn, Obelisk and Corn Du. Weather was par for the course, overcast for most of the day, with the odd sunny spell. Two groups attacked all the main features throughout the day. One group, led by our expedition leader **Capt Phil Castle**, the other by our Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Alf Davie**. It was to the advantage of Group 1 to reach the top of the Corn Du first, not only to signal lunch break, but also to look back and down on to the second group gradually working its way up the steep ascent. At first glance it does not look too bad but as it draws nearer to the top it begins to resemble the north face of the Eiger!

Red faced and panting from the hard climb, **Sgt Neil Wadey** will always remember the sight which greeted him as he reached the top of Corn Du.

The camp site was prepared by the admin staff. Having got to grips with the tentage and food, **Cpl Mo Cullen** then detailed the setting up of a volleyball court for the evening's activity. A quaint little idea on the side of a hill that runs down into a swamp!

The second day was greeted by the familiar pitter-patter and a glance outside the tent confirmed our worst fears. Low cloud base, heavy rain, lovely and cold! The decision to continue was taken, possibly due to the impending arrival of OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Ray Briant**. It entailed a walk back over Pen-y-Fan and onwards to Taf Fechan Forest. The weather did its best and this time we had snow in mid-May! Despite the adverse weather conditions the members of the Troop enjoyed themselves immensely and our thanks go to the staff at Cwyrt-y-Gollen Training Camp. The help, advice and facilities provided were excellent and appreicated by all.

EXERCISE CROSS KEY

On 19 July, four members of the Regiment succeeded in windsurfing across the English Channel from Dover to Calais. The attempt was made in order to raise money for the 'Fulford Cross Special School' in York.

The challenge was the idea of **SSgt 'Wacko Jacko' Jackson** and his accomplices were: **WO2 (SSM) 'Crinkly' Harrison, SSgt Mick 'Poser' Povey ACC** and **Sgt Andy Snaith**.

Despite the wind and rough sea the crossing took four and a half hours and, although this is by no means a record, it raised £2,000 for the school.

'The driving force is the PR side of life', said **2Lt John Norris** (PR Officer!). 'My OC, **Maj Mark Grieves** pioneered the adoption of Fulford Cross Special School as the charity for the Squadron, which was a very fine idea.'

EXERCISE SUMMER SALES 1988
by Capt T. J. Peacocke

If you can keep your head,
Whilst all about you are losing theirs
and blaming it on you
You are not in full possession of the facts.

Kipling (ish!)

Such was the motto of Div HQ during Ex Summer Sales. The exercise exploded into action with a flurry of O Groups and briefings always closing with a remark such as 'Get the first move right and the pressure will be off'. The real Ex Summer Sales veterans smiled knowingly and looked unconvinced. They were soon proved right! From Startex the pressure was definitely on and the comments flew thick and fast. Psychological casualties were inevitable. Due to the inability of the staff to count heads, total confusion reigned concerning feeding strengths. After preparing nearly 60 night rations only to find he should have been on Plan Z **Sgt Dave Taylor** ACC was carried out, twitching, brandishing a bread knife. Happily a few days at B Ech brought him back to normal. He was in good company. The new YofS **Terry Burbidge**, confused by the radplot, started to hallucinate and was eventually seen running from Radcon pursued by 400 white rabbits for whom he could not arrange rebro coverage. Even stalwarts had their moments of confusion, **Sgt 'Rock Steady' Eddie Mooney** was heard daydreaming about his leave pass and a Cyprus posting.

The war caused casualties amongst equipment as well as personnel. Generators were at highest risk but we in Oscar Tp were saved by the hard work of Clark's Commandos, AKA O Tp Powermen, led by **Sgt Brian Clark** with **Cpls Clive Reynolds, Jock Orr, Bob Messruther** and **LCpls Tony Lee, 'GT' Hunt** and **Sig Mick Hodgson**. Together they kept us on the road and working, even finding time for close protection duties for the GOC. **Sig Mick Hodgson** was probably the most individual mechanic, after being sent to sort out the SAS/MC genny, he returned mission unaccomplished. He reported that he had stripped down and reassembled the offending genny, but it still did not work, and he had some pieces left over! The ASM was later seeking **Sig Hodgson** in connection with his inquiries!

Visiting hierarchy was a constant threat to our peace of mind. Preparations for the visit of CinC BAOR and Corps Comd 1 (BR) Corps were supervised from a great height by **Maj Mark 'Icarus' Grieves**, ably assisted by **WO1 (RSM) Todd O'Brien**, who, between them, seemed always to be searching for 'wedgewood pattern' for certain members of the Staff!

The most serious problem of the day was caused by the closing of the HLS by a civilian demo determined to stop the Generals getting to their helicopters. Result, a mad flurry of recce officers despatched to all corners of the globe with instructions to 'find an HLS and do not come back'.

At the end of the long exercise the move back fulfilled all our expectations. Planned and co-ordinated by the RCT Mov Cell at Soltau, it went relatively smoothly with only a few minor hitches. The plan really hiccuped when **Capt Tim Peacocke, SSgt Garry Dodd** and **LCpl Andrew Nelson** were left waving goodbye to the LSL as it sailed from Bremerhaven. An extra day's sojourn at Soltau resulted, followed by a trip back by DFDS. Eventually we were complete in York, having got the last move right, the pressure was finally off.

SCRIPT OF THE EXERCISE

Scene: NBC High all hoods up etc.
SSM: 'High Tweedie!'.
Sig Tweedie: 'Hello Sir'.
SSM: 'Wrong. Wretch!'.

QUOTES OF THE EXERCISE

Sig Curtis, at the wheel of his 110 LR says to **Sig Andy Plowman** (also driving a 110 LR), 'Don't go too fast, this is a diesel'.
SO2 Avn: 'If Div Rear is moving, how can I speak to them?'
Ops Offr: 'Try BFBS!'

COMMHEAD OSCAR'S MESSAGE TO THE STAFF

But Man, proud Man
Dressed in a little brief authority
Most ignorant of what he's most assur'd
His glassy essence
Like an angry ape
Plays such fantastic Tricks
Before High Heaven
As makes the Angels weep

Shakespeare
(Measure for Measure)

'Hello, anybody in there?'—LCpl 'GT' Hunt

'What if I pull this rope?'—Sig Whiteley

EXERCISE POLAR PADDLE 88
Report by Cpl Lillie

Ex Polar Paddle was 49 Bde Sig Tp's Summer Camp. The aim was to canoe down 100 miles of the River Wye to raise money for the Lifesaver 88 appeal in aid of Heart Research at York District Hospital.

Our first hurdle was on 13 July when the troop put on its 'PR Head' and descended upon the River Ouse in an attempt to publicise the exercise. It gave the troop a chance to practise in their two-man canoes, a new experience for most.

Sunday 17 July saw the troop depart from York bound for RAF Hereford. The troop was to eat and sleep in a tented camp and be taken each morning to the finish point of the day before.

On arrival at RAF Hereford, it was noted there was a 4 tonner missing and it was bringing the majority of the troop. Not to worry though, the food had arrived! Six hours later, and under command of **Cpl Sam Sowerby** and driven by **Sig 'Geordie' Richards**, it arrived. They had gone by the scenic route, via Stockport!

Morning broke on the first day and under the fatherly eye of **Capt Ken Clark** we took to the water at Hay-on-the-Wye. Piling into an assorted array of canoes, ranging from the two-man, elegantly streamlined canoes, to the most beaten up, ancient double canoes that could be found, the troop started off down the river. The 'devilish duo' of **Lt Paterson** and **SSgt (YofS) Carroll** seemed intent on doing Viking-like charges on the other canoes. Then, due to some unearthly force, **Cpl Lillis** and **Sig Cowens** were unable to steer their clumsy beast and proceeded to collide with everything possible. In the meantime, **SSgt Pickles** and **Cpl Sowerby** paying their usual attention to convoy drills, tore off ahead. **LCpl Dave Friend** and **Sig Ted Rogers** although supposedly canoeing with the group, seemed intent on practising their 'Scuba Diving'.

The intrepid hang gliders Sig Rogers, Sig Cowens, Lt Chris Paterson, LCpl 'Stewie' Watson and LCpl Dave Friend

And so the days progressed, about five hours canoeing in the morning followed by much needed repairs to both canoes and people in the afternoon and evenings getting down to some 'serious' PR H work. Half way through the week the map admin area was moved to Monmouth and a recce found the local inhabitants to be very friendly.

Friday and Saturday were declared rest days to the great relief of the troop and the usual R and R took place. A group of intrepid fliers decided to take to the air on a Hang Gliding course led by **Lt Paterson**. They spent Friday afternoon familiarising themselves with the hang gliders and destroying their knees in the process.

Saturday saw them up in the air, but tethered by a rope. A proposal then went up for next year's Summer Camp. A 100 mile glide down the Grand Canyon! It did not get any further than a proposal.

Sunday arrived and the troop was duly entered in the Army Marathon Canoeing Championships. Once again that sinister force struck, **Cpl Lillis** and **Sig Cowens**, moments before the start, were upturned and swept downstream. The rest of the troop performed brilliantly in some new, borrowed canoes, which aided the Regiment to overall second place.

A big thank you to the admin team, in particular **Sgt 'Wally' Wallace** and **Cpl 'JJ' Johnson** who organised (brutalised) the admin party. Also the cooks **Cpl 'Robbo' Roberts** and **LCpl 'Jock' Walker** who gave a new meaning to the words 'death pack', producing the tastiest design ever! 49 Bde Sig Tp are now easily identifiable from the remainder of HM Forces by their fiberglass burns, upper body strength and severe cases of hydrophobia!

KOHIMA CELEBRATIONS
by 2Lt Nisbet WRAC

The lead-up to the weekend of 29-31 July proved to be a monumental headache for all concerned. It involved clearing the camp of cars, daily security checks, panic ordering of anything that had been forgotten, tents put up, taken down, and put up again, the detailing of all and sundry to be in about 10 different places at once. At last Friday finally dawned and the finishing touches were added.

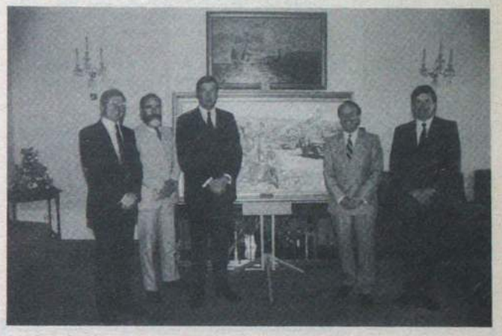
The admin celebrations got underway with the GOC's reception on Friday night followed by Retreat played by the Corps Band and the Pipes and Drums of the 2nd Battalion the Scots Guards.

Saturday greeted us with ominous black clouds, but the preparations for the Open Day carried on with the odd prayer here and there, hoping the weather would hold, which thankfully it did.

In the meantime the Regimental Officers were preparing to welcome the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, and other distinguished guests to the unveiling of a painting to commemorate the turning point in the Battle of Kohima in 1944. The painting depicts the final joining of the communications link along the Imphal Road, between Kohima and Imphal.

The painting was unveiled by the GOC **Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE** and **2Lt John Norris** read out a description of the event.

Maj Gen E. J. Hellier CBE accepted the painting on behalf of the Corps and duly handed it over to **Lt Col J. H. Griffin** to be hung in the 2nd Division Officers' Mess.



Lt Col Griffin, Peter Archer (Artist), Maj Gen Naylor, Maj Gen Hellier and Lt Col Elford pictured in front of the Imphal Road Painting unveiled on Saturday 30 July 1988

Meanwhile, the Garrison Open Day was in full swing. Opened by the Lord Mayor of York **Alderman Reg Pulleyn** in two and a half hours over £2,000 was collected, which was a good effort by all concerned.

The evening consisted of two separate functions, a dinner for the officers, held in Ousefield House Mess and a supper and disco for the veterans, held in the Sergeants' Mess.

Sunday was a special day for the veterans, involving an Open Air Service in the Deanery Gardens of York Minster, beside the Kohima Memorial Stone. There was then a March Past by members of the Regiment, led by **Maj Mark Grieves**, followed by the veterans, resplendent in their medals.

Everyone was then bussed back to the Barracks and a superb curry lunch was served on the lawn in front of the Sergeants' Mess. The whole weekend was concluded by **Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE** thanking everyone for coming and hoping to see them again next year. Although it was a very hectic weekend, it was enjoyed by everyone and here's hoping that next year's commemoration will be equally successful.

POSTSCRIPT

Once again, there are some hello's and goodbyes to say. Firstly, goodbye to **Maj Brendon Hughes, Capt Steve Jackson** and **WO1 (RMS) Todd O'Brien** we wish them every success in their new posts.

Then in the same breath, a big hello to **Maj Peter Richards, Capt Nick Metcalfe, WO1 (RSM) Gerry Hegarty** and **WO1 (YofS) Drake**, we hope their tour with us will be a happy one.

210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt Adam Hearn**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
OC Supp Tp	**Lt Andrew Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Neil Bartlett**

The summer was taken up with a series of exercises, all designed to give the Squadron training in Germany. These exercises were preceeded by Ex Lion's Body, a helicopter training week on Catterick Trg Area. The highlight of the exercise was the abseiling demonstration for GOC 2 Div, which saw four of our intrepid warriors descending onto the roof of a house in the Whinney Hill FIBUA complex whilst the downdraught from the chopper blew away the General's lunch.

At the end of the week the Squadron departed from Catterick for Hull and thence across the North Sea for more fun and games in BAOR.

EXERCISE SUMMER TIDE/SUMMER SALES
Hawk's Thoughts

Following a smooth crossing to Rotterdam we had to wait for nine hours in a Dutch Army barracks east of Arnhem for the German weekend convoy ban to lift before crossing the border.

The time passed slowly, the only relief being provided by **Sig 'Geordie' Fuller**, our MT rep, who filled his 1 tonne rebro with dieso instead of benz.

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Ex Summer Tide was quite busy, with two full air moves. A lot of lessons were learned, the main one being the need to reduce the weight of the airmobile HQ still further. It was suggested that the easiest way to jettison useless weight would be to leave the Staff behind. Obviously that isn't true but on both moves adjustments had to be made as the weight was too great for the Chinooks.

The weekend location between exercises was the disused Scarborough Barracks in Osnabruck. Not exactly the Ritz, but we managed to get a good rest and a wash before sampling the limited delights of downtown Osnatraz.

Summer Sales was a slower moving exercise. The Staff managed to keep us all busy and amused at the same time, and as usual the Squadron rose to all the challenges that were presented.

Cpl John Haynes took a nasty slip into a pit full of cookhouse slops. Whilst he bobbed up and down neck deep the rest of the Squadron were rolling around in hysterics. Fortunately he survived and returned to us from BMH Hannover with only a cracked rib and smelling rather better than when he left. **Cpl Rich Wicking** had a close shave. Whilst visiting a trunk node he was ambushed by Orange forces. Thankfully they found him to be of no value and returned him, much to the relief of his crewman, **LCpl John Hewitt**, who had officially reported him missing in action.

KESTREL'S WORDS

We deployed to Germany on Saturday 18 June, a beautiful day for a boat trip. After **Lt 'Navigator' Duncan** left the signed route from the autobahn, drove 100m and managed to miss seeing the Dutch traffic guide in his dayglow vest, we eventually arrived at our staging point near Arnhem.

Once in Germany Kestrel had the doubtful honour of the first air move. We will say no more about that event; things did not go as planned. The exercise slowly improved and after a weekend break in Osnabruck we ventured out on Summer Sales, most of which was spent preparing for, having, and clearing up after VIP visits.

Golden Egg awards for the exercise were as follows:-

Cpl John Hynes	Potholer of the Year
Lt 'Rip Van' Duncan	Golden Blanket

ECHELON'S ENDING

We arrived at Osnabruck and after refuelling deployed to our first location, known to all as Tin City. Our thanks to the Recce Offr for his subtle attempts to get **Sgt Pete Russell** to shed a few pounds by siting us in this sauna. We quickly settled and donned our noddy suits, just for fun.

Finally **Cpl 'Gaz' Lee** put us all out of our misery by powering up the AO's tent, peace and quiet at last. **SSgt 'Ceedie' Bartlett** fired up his Pampas and started issuing Part 2 Orders. **Sgt 'Mac' McAlpine** and **Sgt 'Nobber' Hayles** raced to beat **Sgt Rich Reed** to bed but they were all pipped at the post by **Sgt Heaton**. All in all a normal average exercise.

EXERCISE SCORPION'S TAIL—11-15 JULY

After a rather unpleasant return to Harwich the Squadron arrived in Bodney Camp on Stanford Trg Area in the early evening of Saturday 9 July. The Excon was set up and everyone scattered for the weekend. On their return to the exercise area **YofS Douggie McTaggart** and **LCpl Arthur** were involved in a traffic accident. The Yeoman was taken to a local hospital where he is now recovering. **LCpl Arthur** arrived shaken at Bodney with what was left of the vehicle.

The Squadron spent most of its' time administering Bodney Camp and apart from some abseiling from a Puma and an air move of the HQ the exercise was very quiet. Thankfully the end of the week finally arrived and we returned to Catterick and our families after an absence of four weeks.

The only other event of interest was the CO's Inspection of the Squadron which took place on Friday 22 July and caused many a long evening of work in preparation. The day went smoothly and that was the last hurdle before our block leave. As I type this the Squadron is out on a battle run which will be followed by a barbecue with the families. Tomorrow we all go on a well earned three weeks leave, see you next issue.

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

REGIMENTAL ROUND UP

'Would somebody please stand still for a minute and write *Wire* notes—this is a quiet period!'

Reality and practice for war have been the themes of Regimental life these last few months.

3 DIVISION REUNION CLUB

Reality was provided by a visit to the regiment by a party of D-Day veterans. All landed on Sword Beach with the Iron Division and many were Signals. Veterans they may be with some in their eighties but they proved themselves more than a match for the busy programme set for the five days.

In good 'Drive On' tradition they had a go at everything; cross country traversing in ASV 436's showed many driving with skilled abandon. Their markmanship with the SA80 was a joy to see and explains much about the Division's success during the war if these men were a small sample. A sailing trip on the Mohnesee and visits around our new camp were attempts at slowing their pace down but no, they made up speed with the social engagements.

The main hosts for the visit was the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. While the Corporals' Mess hosted a luncheon for them where many accounts of communicating under fire left many with thoughts of 'could I do the same?' and 'war doesn't sound a good idea'.

The CO **Lt Col Ashley Truluck**, bravely, allowed his house to became a strong point for the veterans to entertain the Officers and their ladies. No, that is not the wrong way round. The CO and officers soon realised whose party it was. The veterans recollections of service with horse drawn cable waggons were amazing in accuracy and character, along with the realisation that soldier humour is timeless. A shock revelation to many was that Linemen went forward of advancing troops to lay cable the infantry could fight on to! The medals and awards worn proudly by the veterans were certainly hard won. OC line troop **Capt A. Hughes** had to have prised out of him the information that he was the holder of the Croix de Guerre for his actions. The regimental officers yielded defeat when in the early hours of the morning the veterans contingent sang their regimental songs prompted and led strongly by their oldest soldier **Ernest Bailey**.

Their strong comradeship, an example to all, was demonstrated when **Alec Mills** was regretfully taken ill at the end of their visit and **Arthur Elwick** steadfastly refused to leave him when the party returned to the UK. We are happy to report he is on the mend and will soon 'return to duty'! Special thanks must go to **Maj Ken Smartt** of the Reunion Club for his tireless organisation.

Capt Steve Marshall has asked us to point out that despite having been the SSM, the RSM and now the QM(T) of the Regiment and appearing on the adjacent photograph, he does not consider himself a veteran yet!

Old Comrades' Reunion—St Sebastian Barracks

EXERCISE SUMMER SALES

Before receiving tales of how it really was the regiment deployed in Ex Summer Sales to practice our role of war.

An added incentive to our defensive drills was the deployment of a Squadron of 'enemy', suddenly all the aggro over defence drills during the year were brought sharply into focus. And the concentration paid off.

The Regiment received overall praise in the PXR from 'the boys'. One Headquarters location foiled entry on several occasions. The trunk nodes defended and camouflaged well and really only suffered 'Death by DS' when an enforced fragmentation of the network was required. Top marks must go to **WO2 (SSM) McCormick** and **WO2 (FofS) 'Tiny' Brown** for apprehending two intruders of the beige beret variety and in the Foreman's case 'sitting on' them. We would like to know the Sabre Squadron's reactions when we returned their OC and SSM!

Communications on Ex Summer Sales caused some worry! Not from not working but working so well. Admittedly there were odd moments of concern (and when the CO is concerned everyone is concerned) and times of fingers crossed and 'how did that work?' particularly when a single cable patch tried by **Maj Clive Cox** SO2 Comms and **Capt Ray West** the TOT was found to be carrying all the Wavell traffic in the Corps.

VOGELSANG 88

Regimental Military skills were held again during our annual Battle Camp in the Eifel.

Co-ordinated centrally by **Maj O'Gorman** Queens and his team from HQ Sqn the programmes were Squadron organised and controlled.

A wide variety of practices were included from Helicopter drills and underslung loads, through combat swimming, to live demolition training. A high percentage of mandatory training was killed off to allow more time for more exercises during the year.

SQUADRON JOTTINGS
1 SQUADRON
WELCOMES AND CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome the following to the Squadron: **SSgt Stachini** and his wife **Marie, Sgt Cox** and his wife **Brigitte, Cpl Raine** and **Sig Haselhurst**.

Congratulations on promotion are given to **SSgt Atkinson, Sgt Shirely** and **Cpl Woods**.

EXERCISE SHORT TREK
A report by Cpl Wood
ECHO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**2Lt Kinnard**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Wandless**
	SSgt Smallman
Ex Co-Ordinater	**Cpl Scott**
Tp Pathfinder	**Sig Beattie**

It was a bright summery morning and the members of Echo Tp paraded at the beloved prison annex. The Lance Corporal's and Signalmen of the troop had been informed they would be escorting a small section of visiting Army cadets around on an orienteering course, a demanding task for even the most experienced of orienteers.

The time soon arrived for the hardened veterans of the troop to meet their fresh faced companions, whispers of 'I hope you can map read lads', could be heard from certain members of the troop. As soon as the cadets were split into teams it was into the wilderness of the Arnsberger Wald, a rather mountainous and densely wooded area, much to the dismay of most teams. It was here that **Cpl 'Scotty' Scott** briefed the teams on the task ahead of them. After the initial shock had passed it was soon time for the first team to gallivant into the distance led by their industrious pathfinder **Sig 'Paddy' Beattie**. The other teams followed at 10 minute intervals. The first crisis occured on the way to check point one, where **Sig 'Breeze Block' Fuller** was observed screaming something about cadets not being able to map read, this peculiar display was followed by a deadly attack of follow my leader syndrome, which is known to affect most orienteers at some time or another. This concluded with team two amazingly finding a check point twenty seconds after team five had been there. The following check points were found with much sweat, luck and at times some good map reading.

At the end teams were met by the life saving sight of **LCpl Cox** slaving over a barbecue.

The prizes were then presented to the winning teams by **2Lt Kinnard**, who amazingly managed to find the finishing point. The prizes were to be presented by OC Sqn **Maj Ross** who found the finishing post 15 minutes later. Although a good day was had by all even **Sig 'Whipper' Young's** team who arrived weeks after everyone had finished managed a smile. The cadets and signalmen then went wearily home a little wiser in the art of map reading.

WINNING TEAMS

Signals	*Time*	*Cadets*	*Time*
Sig Beattie	1 hr 45 mins	**Sig Paul**	2 hr 5 mins
Sig Hudson		**Cdt Barr**	
CSM Wilton		**Cdt Browne**	
Cdt Lane		**Cdt Drew**	

2 SQUADRON

There has been considerable change in the Squadron over the last two months. Amongst others, we say farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Frank McCormick, SSgt (FofS) Gig Plumb** and **Cpl (ASgt) Craig** who are leaving on promotion and to **SSgt (YofS) Joe Murray** on his move to 1 Sqn. We also lose **2Lt Simon Spiers** and **2Lt Tim Allen** on their move to the finest country club in the Army (RMCS Shrivenham).

SPORT

As expected the Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Sailing by a large margin. The helms in reverse order of competence were **Capt Keith Whitehead, 2Lt Simon Spiers** and **Cpl Craig Avey-Hebditch**.

We were runners up to HQ Sqn in the basketball having been beaten in the final play-off; a very good effort by **Cpl Duggan** and his team.

3 SQUADRON
HAIL AND FAREWELL

The number of people departing and arriving have almost made the Squadron feel they are a transit organisation. Here's the list with apologies to anyone who has been omitted.

HELLO TO

SSgt (YofS) Campbell, Sgt Taylor, Cpl Smart, Sig Brown (Brum), LCpls Thomas, Swithenbank and **Sgt Fisher**.

GOODBYE TO

Capt Gary Smith, SSgt (YofS) Pugh, Sgt Billy Bingham, Sig 'Jock' Edmister, Sig 'Scottie' Scott and **Sgt Kenny Fudge**.

EXERCISE SUMMER SALES

June saw Papa Tp deploy to the 'Cleanest Commhead in 1 (BR) Corps', spending almost a week in a location with showers. Even **LCpl 'Taff' Furnival** managed to fit one in to his busy schedule!

Welcome to **Sgt Taylor**, new to panzers, new to Ptarmigan, new to Germany and almost as fresh faced as the troop CO. Sadly the exercise saw the end of **SSgt (YofS) Pugh's** reign in Comms Ops—he initiated **2Lt Neil Fraser** to the delights of the Nightshift and ate the bulk of his extra strong mints!

Diamond one under the eye of **SSgt Ray Spencer** had a wonderful time and even **Sig Gheney** managed to raise a smile for another recruiting photo.

A new improved Tac HQ performed well under **Sgt 'Billy' Bingham** and **Sig 'Gaz' Love** managed to decipher the Arty callsign system to the delight of the Staff.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj David Proctor**
2IC	**Capt Mark Eaton**
OC A Tp	**2Lt Jim Prior**
OC B Tp	**Lt Lyndon Campbell-Black**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Jeff Hattersley**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) John Martin**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Billy Haslam**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Charlie Foster**

WELCOMES

We would like to welcome the following personnel to the Squadron: **Sgt Alan Speight RPC, Cpl Gary** and **Sharon Cole, Cpl Ray** and **Karen Lang, LCpl 'Skev' Skevington** and **Sig Jack Gorman**.

DEPARTURES

The Squadron would like to thank the following for all their hard work during their tour with us and wish them and their families all the best for the future: **Cpl John** and **Mandy Davies** to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, **LCpl Pete** and **Kay Forrest** to School of Signals, **Cpl Bob** and **Jean Wilson** to School of Signals, **Cpl Graham** and **Anita Preece** to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Sig Pat Gray** to 244 Sig Sqn.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **LCpl Simon** and **Liz Graham** on the birth of their daughter **Stacey**, also to **Sgt 'Taff'** and **Sharon Leibe** on the birth of their son **Michael**.

SPORTS

On the sporting front the Squadron has continued to be successful in Golf, Cricket and Athletics.

ATHLETICS

The season started in high spirits with the Inter-Troop competition at Div, a close run contest which saw us pip 1 Sqn to the winning tape.

The Inter-Troop meeting was held once again at the BAOR stadium and saw Rhine Tp take first position from Ardennes and then bringing up the rear was SHQ Tp.

The Morrison Cup, held at the BAOR stadium, produced yet another ding dong battle with old rivals 207 and 200 Sig Sqns, who beat us into third place by a margin of a couple of points; well done lads, but watch out next season.

The 3 Armd Div stage of the BAOR Minor Units championships, also at the BAOR stadium saw the Squadron's name on the winners trophy for the second year running, beating 3 Armd Fd Amb and 11 Armd Wksps REME by a comfortable margin.

And so to the big one the BAOR finals at, yes, you have guessed it, the BAOR stadium yet again. Unfortunately 'home advantage' did not help us as we came fifth in what was a high grade competition. Whatever the final results, the competitions were as always hard fought and sporting and we would like to thank all our opponents for an interesting season. We look forward to next season with enthusiasm.

CRICKET

The Squadron team has had numerous successes on the Cricket field. Most notably winning the 3 Armd Div Minor Units Cup beating 3 Ord Bn by 47 runs in the final. Man of the match must have been **Cpl Jasper Parrott**.

GOLF

The Squadron Golf team is virtually unbeatable in the Paderborn area. With recently the talents of **Sig Lance Malin** joining the Squadron team to victory on a number of occasions. If you have a handicap of seven or less apply for a posting to 202 Sig Sqn.

204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

CONGRATULATIONS

Pleasing news reached us on 12 July 1988, that the OC, **Maj Alan Poppleton**, had been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1989. The announcement was celebrated.

TROOP TITLES

To mark the official change in troop titles from Oscar, Papa and Quebec to Alpha, Bravo and Sierra the Squadron held a parade on 23 June in line with Corps traditions. The event also saw the raising of the new Squadron pennant in front of SHQ.

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

Over the past few months there have been several changes within the Squadron. Amongst the departures are **SSgt Les Machado** (otherwise known as our Parts and Kit Issue Man), **SSgt John Passfield** and newly promoted **Sgt Jeff Martin**, whose departure will seriously deplete the strength of the Squadron Cross Country Team. New faces in the Squadron include **Capt Eric Heritage** as 2IC and **Sgt George Brown**, the new FAMTO Storeman.

SWIMMING/WATER POLO

Once again the Squadron water babes, under the supervision of Chief nymph, **Sgt Chris Nutt** had a successful season. On 21 June the Swimming team swept all opposition aside to win the Divisional Inter Minor Units Competition for the fifth successive time. The following day the team travelled to Soest for the Water Polo Competition. After a fortunate draw in the qualifying pools the team managed to progress to the finals stage where it finished as runners-up to the Grenadier Guards. As a result of these successes the Squadron qualified for both events at the BAOR Finals in Berlin in July. Unfortunately due to exercise and course commitments the Squadron was forced to field a slightly below par squad. Nevertheless the team still came a creditable joint fifth in the swimming competition, whilst in the Water Polo event we were unlucky to be drawn in the same pool as the eventual competition winners and runners-up, 21 Engr Regt and 16 Sig Regt.

ARMY TRIATHLON

The Squadron's very own Superman, better known to his friends as **Cpl Keith Balsdon**, took part in the Army Triathlon held at RMAS on 4 July. After swimming 1,000m, cycling 42km and running a further 10km **Cpl Balsdon** managed to finish well within the top 30 competitors.

ACROSS TRUST VISIT

The Across Trust, an organisation which provides holidays for disabled people, made a week long visit to the Garrison in July. The programme included the Squadron acting as guides for the wheelchair visitors on a shopping tour around the Munster town centre. Special thanks go to **LCpl Bob Inglesant** who gave much of his free time helping the Trust throughout the week.

LCpl Bob Inglesant enjoys a brief cup of coffee with some of the ladies visiting Munster with the Across Trust

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Andy Grey**
2IC	**Capt Viv Thatcher**
OC A Troop	**Capt Mike Stapleton**
OC B Troop	**Capt Jim Morley-Kirk**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) McAleer**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Parry**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Boxhall**
SQMS	**SSgt Treen**
Chief	**Sgt Glossop**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron welcomes the following personnel and wishes them a happy tour in Soest: **Sgt Smith REME, Cfn Royle REME** and **Cpl Mayor REME**. To those who have left we wish them all the best in their new posts: **Sgt Jarvis** to 11 Armd Wksps, **LCpl Hoskins** to 'Civvy Street', **Sig Murdoch** to sunny Belize, **Sig Pritchett** to 249 Sig Sqn on promotion and **LCpl Bleasdale** to NI.

CONGRATULATORY

Best wishes to **LCpls Davies** and **O'Sullivan** on their forthcoming marriages.

GENERAL

Another busy time running up at last to the quieter Summer leave period. Ex Summer Sales and a very successful battle camp at Vogelsang were the main features. Next on the calendar comes adventure training to Switzerland and Bavaria before snuggling up in the panzers again in the Autumn.

INTER SQUADRON SAILING

On 24 June the Squadron entered a team for the 3 Armd Div Sig Regt Inter Squadron Sailing Regatta. The three boats were crewed by **Capt Thatcher** and **Sig Eddie Yeates, SSgt (SQMS) Treen** and **Sig Barr** and **Cpl Martin Kendall** with **Sig Steve Gore**.

Having escaped from Excon Summer Sales we were looking forward to a day of sunshine and a following wind. The first race got off to a flying start with all crews eager to do well. Visions of Olympic Selection by the 2IC were quickly dashed while doing his first 720 penalty turn. Best individual efforts during the three races were:-

1st Race	**SSgt Treen**	5th place
2nd Race	**Capt Thatcher**	6th place
3rd Race	**Cpl Kendall**	3rd place

Unfortunately the crews did not quite dominate in any race and 206 Sig Sqn finished fifth overall. A creditable effort by all concerned in view of their limited sailing experience.

INTER-TROOP CRICKET COMPETITION

During the hectic Vogelsang preparations, the Squadron took time off for an Inter-Troop one-day cricket match—a good excuse to christen our newly purchased equipment.

The weather held out and an excellent time was had by all. The wives and kiddies turned up to witness the afternoon's play and join in the Barbecue. The day revealed the Squadron's closet demon bowlers and batsmen, too numerous to mention. **Sig Craig Brooksbank** starred by clearing 50 runs, and **Kev Reeves** did very well handling the toughest job on the field, as head umpire. A special mention must go to **Cpl 'I've got the kit' Deegan** for his contribution to Support Tp's team. After hours of posing in the right sports wear, down to the white 'underwear' his turn at last came to wield the bat and boost their score with numerous runs. Alas bowled out first ball. A very, very golden duck. Bravo Tp were the eventual winners. However, all this pales before **Cpl Tony Howward's** achievements. He represented the Corps at the Inter Corps Semi-finals against the RCT in July, and took 5 wickets for only 28 runs. Very well done indeed.

JOTTINGS

Finally a few notes from the 'Engine Room'. The Chief and his staff would like to wish **Miss 'Mop head' Chris Law** all the very best on her forthcoming marriage in September to **Cpl 'Brad' Bradley** of a foreign Squadron, after years of looking for the right man in her cleaning cupboard.

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

RHQ
By: LCpl Willie Leggatt

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col Adrian Schuler**
2IC	**Maj Malcolm Sinton**
Adjt	**Capt Sean Dexter**
Asst Adjt	**Lt Mandy Tindall**
SC	**WO1 (SC) Tim Craven**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Mike Boyle**

THE ORDERLY ROOM

Disc Clk	**Cpl Ray Pritchard**
IC Docus Cell	**Cpl Jim Stubley**
Leave and Movs	**LCpl Willie Leggatt**
Filing/Registry	**WLCpl Diane Downer**
P20s	**WCpl Sara Hollands**
Docus	**WPte Shirley Stoddart**
Docus	**Sig Bob Ellison**

It has been a long time since the real workers of the unit had a mention in *The Wire*, (this has nothing to do with the fact that the AAdjt was in charge of writing them), so a volunteer has at least come forward and done the business.

There is a quiz in RHQ at the moment with poignant questions like: 'what is a NAAFI break? 'What is a sports afternoon?' As yet we haven't been able to find out the answers, but we keep trying.

We have had outstanding success on the sports front, in particular beating (annihilating is a better word) 7 Sig Regt's RHQ 6—2 at football, which caused 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt's RHQ to bottle out of a match. The Supt Clk **Tim Craven** and **Cpl Pritchard** continue to do well hashing (it's a run round the Herford area, and not a comment on their work) every week. **LCpl Willie Leggatt** maintains his services to the rugby team (and overtime to the RMP) and **LCpl Rich Hanley** has had success with the Regimental tug-of-war team.

Congratulations to the following people: **Cpl Jim Stubley** on his forthcoming promotion to Sergeant. **LCpl Willie Leggatt** and **Kes** on the birth of their daughter **Kirsty**. **WPte Shirley Stoddart**, for having BMH Rinteln renamed BMH Stoddart. **WCpl Sara Hollands**, for having a ward in BMH Stoddart named after her.

Finally, farewells to **WO1 (RSM) Harwood** who has retired to be families officer in 7 Sig Regt. Congratulations on your commissioning **Maj Mike Lithgow** now in MOD and **Maj Mike Morphet** now in semi-retirement in Div HQ. Congrats on your promotion.

We would also like to welcome **WO1 (RSM) Boyle**.

1 SQUADRON
CHEETAH TROOP

The Troop has recently spent many weeks on exercise, three weeks were spent on the Main Square for Ex High Pass. Node Command soon became the ED Coffee Room during the frequent heavy downpours of rain. Immediately after Endex the Node moved to a single location for Ex Summer Sales. C Company of 4 WFR were attached to defend the Node from the 'enemy'. Such was the infantry's vigilance, the enemy was convincingly deterred. Following their departure, Troop members were engaged defending the location from a dangerous **SSgt 'Charlie' Dubique** and his admin crew, who accidentally, flushed out the enemy in a model attack.

Cheetah Troop bids farewell to **Cpl 'Oggy' Ogburn** and welcomes **Sig 'Blue' Beard**. There are also five members of the Troop missing, last seen at Earls Court with the tug-of-war team. Has anyone seen them (pulled against them?) recently?

KIWI TROOP

During the early hours of 27 July, Kiwi Troop led the 1 Sqn deployment on Ex Summer Sales. It was to be a most realistic and exhausting exercise—the threat from 'Special Forces' was serious enough for **Sgt Bill McCann** to wear cam cream, much to **Sgts Nigel Varley** and **Simon Tatmans** amusement. Notable among our many briefings was that by **Sig J. R. (Brig) Phelps**. Last minute danger forced **LCpl Ridley** and **Sig 'Nipper' Smith** into a BAOR-wide game of musical Radio Relays.

The first enemy attack was repulsed through the heroic deeds of **SSgt Brian Hair** and **Cpl Gaz Pope**; meanwhile the OC, **Lt Phil Davies**, was bravely guarding Node Comd, the switch and any other vehicle big enough to bang his head on! Four moves, 2,500km and several sense of humour failures later saw the Troop back home to relative sanity.

The Troop welcomes **LCpl Ridley** and **Sig Fryer** and **Hobron**, and bids farewell to the OC, **Lt Phil Davies** en route for the Blandford Brain Drain, **LCpl 'Stu' Garrett** and **LCpl Nige Morris**.

2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj M. J. Dent MBE**
2IC	**Capt N. J. Borrill**
OC A1 Tp	**2Lt P. S. Cubbin**
OC A3 Tp	**Lt S. Gregory**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) B. C. Howe**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) J. T. Selkirk**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) P. J. Stoddart**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) R. M. Minton**
MT	**Sgt K. K. Enfield**
	Sgt J. G. McGowan

It is about time the SHQ contributed a few words to the Squadron *Wire* input, not only to add tone to the notes, but also to dispel, or in some cases confirm, some of the more slanderous accusations made against us by our fellow troops.

Not having put pen to paper for sometime means that certain events have failed to receive a mention, but do so now. One such item is the Squadron's participation in the Lippstadt Marches, in which 13 'volunteers', under the direction of a very clean **YofS Pete Stoddart**, posed as Everton players to walk/run the 20km course.

All were successful in completing the march and collected yet another medal to pin on their chests.

A second medal winning event, which again occurred some time ago was the Inter-Sqn Althletics competition.

Although overall victory was not ours, certain gladiators triumphed, in particular **LCpl McLaughlin** and members of the 4 x 100m relay.

What was good to see was maximum participation from the Squadron, both in competition and admin support. More recently, and like the rest of 1 (BR) Corps, the Squadron has been involved in Ex Summer Sales, which proved on the whole, to be quite an enjoyable exercise. Many personalities were in their element, but admittedly these stories are best told by the troops.

Finally a word of congratulation to our green-fingered SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Percy Howe**, who fought a bitterly contested battle to share first place in the 'Best Garden' competition. Rumour has it, that it was the Begonia purpurescens which clinched it!

A1 TROOP

Summer, Suntans, Beaches, Girls! Overnight the sensitive souls of A1 Troop discarded their old jeans, and bulk purchased knee length Hawaian shorts conceived, designed and mass produced by **Diane Lawton**. The effect was startling. Not so much from the high fashion point of view, but more the Royal Doulton porcelain legs. However, these soon turned a shocking shade of pink before most decided that discretion was the better part of valour, and tenderly eased themselves back into 'trousers—lightweight'.

Ex Summer Sales, was naturally the most traumatic of our recent experiences. The news that a highly trained enemy was prowling around affected different people different ways. Warriors such as **Eddie Waring** and 'Soldiers of Fortune' **Sig Shivers** and **Leask** were all for leopard crawling along a three mile patrol route under cover of darkness. More experienced men of war, such as **SSM Howe**, were

too footsore from frantically checking sentries and gun posts, that they were all sitting down at the side of the road and admitting to Troop Sergeants that they were all in. How are the mighty fallen! Others though had the situation well in hand.

Four or five days in NBC suits at the height of Summer brought many surprises. The addition of some gently aerobic exercises involving barbed wire, sandbags and penthouses has roughly the same effect as four months on the Cambridge Diet. Surprisingly enough, the men were slow to appreciate the benefits of this, and insisted on talking of irritations caused by prickly heat. Joking aside, it was extremely uncomfortable, but the Troop proved to be dedicated professional soldiers, a credit to any Regiment.

The move back to camp was, by the large uneventful. In fact it was so uneventful that many events that the routecard said should happen, didn't. Once again **Yeoman Stoddart** burst into the limelight with an amazing display of formation 'U' turning involving seventeen armoured vehicles. Is it the turning, is it the turning, was it the turning? Yes it was. The whole journey culminated in a remarkable street-lamp tour of Lemgo, a beautiful and deeply moving experience.

All told it was a testing exercise. After being totally destroyed by Fencer Bombers A1 Troop still moved barbed wire, did stags and wore cam cream.

Finally congratulations must go to **Cpls Richmond, Rutland** and **Barnes** on their forthcoming and well deserved promotions to sergeant.

A3 TROOP

The Troop welcomes **LCpl John Imrie** yet another Jock, **LCpl 'Porkie' Husain** definitely not a Jock, and having escaped from the Panzers comes **Sig W. H. Scourfield**. Temporarily we bid goodbye to **Sig Mark Christie** who goes off to Penguin country for six months.

Ex Quantum Fury saw just one Rebro and the OC off to Soltau—by the end of week 'one' practically the whole Troop and the 2IC **Capt Ishmael Borrill**, had been deployed. He, it seems, by too much close contact with **WO2 (SSM) Brian Howe**, had acquired an unhealthy, for the Troop at least, mania for camouflage. If only he was as eager to run the Squadron accounts! Stories include the case of the disappearing subaltern, **Simon Gregory**. Unfortunately there was little chance of escape for the rest, **Sig Challiner** and **Alan Saidy** both found themselves chained to their rebro. Whilst the remainder ran MT, did enemy, etc etc. Meanwhile, as the rain poured down, along with the shells, the Troop was initiated into the Royal Artillery's ancient art of putting everybody into the wrong place—only to have to move one hundred yards five minutes later. Sense of humour failures were the order of the day.

Events reached such a stage that when threatened with deployment **LCpl 'Taff' Hetherington** took drastic measures/action and rolled his Rebro down the nearest hill—minus driver. Surely the exercise wasn't that bad? Things quietened a bit for Ex Summer Sales. There was a plan to visit Alpha One but nobody could find them. Up in the hills Rebro Recce was attacked by the bad guys but **SSgt Kev Nicholls** and **LCpl John Imrie** effected a high speed reverse and were last seen giggling away at 50mph. Fortunately this warned Alpha cluster including **Sig Dick Barton** and **LCpl Rab McLaughlin**. The only casualty taken was **Sig Barney Stonestreet** who had to be rushed to BMH Rinteln to have his anti-histamine kleenex surgically removed.

Inverse resupply was effected by the CO and the RSM in the early hours of Sunday morning when, having been challenged and allowed to enter, proceeded to borrow cigarettes and look at training mags.

Meanwhile back in Radcon, single-handedly run by **Sgt Dave Mason** whilst **YofS Pete Stoddart** was up in his private helicopter, all seemed to run well. And from Radcon comes our quote of the month, from the Yeoman, 'Relay to 21B. Radio check, Over', closely followed by our amateur technician **Sig Fawcett**, 'There's noo anything wrong wi' the set—it's something inside it'.

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Alan Jones**
2IC	**Capt John Walker MBE**
OC A Tp	**2Lt Graham Addley**
OC B Tp	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) John Dent**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dave Brogden RA Signals**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) 'Chippy' Wood**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Iain Blacklaw**
MT Sgt	**Sgt R. A. B. Farquarson RCT**

ALPHA TROOP

OC	**Capt Jim Wood**
2IC	**2Lt Graham Addley**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt George Davison**
Tp SSgt	**Sgt Geoff Hawkins**

EXERCISE SUMMER SALES

As there were so many seniors and officers at Oscar HQ during the exercise, **Capt Wood** became Admin NCO (sole job being to call Stand-tos) and **Sgt Hawkins** became cabbage patch overseer.

Thanks go to 2 Sqn for instigating the new cam cream policy for the Regiment and also to **Sgt Herbert** for his interesting if somewhat haphazard endex route card.

The Squadron barbecue laid on by Alpha Troop was a great success. It also gave the Troop a chance to say goodbye to one of its more cheerful characters, **Cpl 'Flash' Eeles** who distinguished himself in so many ways but better not reported!

We also say farewell to **LCpl Simpson** who now joins **Cpl Eeles** in civvy street, and to our Troop OC **Capt Jim Wood** who goes to Blandford for a course or two. Good luck to all of you.

Congratulations must go to newlyweds, **Cpl Andy Dick, Sig Will Williams**, and **Sig 'Geordie' Nixon**.

The Troop's Adventurous Training party organised by **2Lt Graham Addley**, who wished he was sailing, was based in Bavaria where canoeing, climbing and trekking pursuits were on offer. Due to miserable weather in the first week it was a chance for sightseeing and **Cpl Steve Burrows** came out with the quote of the week: talking about Austria he said, 'It's just like Wales but without the sheep'. The highlight of the week was when **Dvr Bonehill** (Bravo Tp) held up an Express for 15 minutes by parking his 5 tonner across the railway track. The incident was reported in the local papers.

BRAVO TROOP

OC	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt John Brooks**
Tp Sgt (MT)	**Sgt Rob Farquarson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Stu Morrin**

EXERCISE AMPHIBIOUS VIKING

In July an element of B Tp managed to escape the vicious circle of exercise, vehicle maintenance and guard. Ex Amphibious Viking, a combined trekking and canoeing expedition in Norway, took place.

The first phase of the expedition involved trekking from Finse across the Hardangavidda to Haukeisaiter, a distance of 120km across breath taking scenery. While the second phase meant taking to the water in two man Kyai's and canoeing down the Setesdal Valley to the fjords and out to sea.

The expedition members arrived at Finse, via a frustrating night in Oslo, at midday on 14 July. The sight awaiting us was of the Jokelen Glacier which we would pass.

This was where we met our first mishap. **LCpl Turner** was finding the going hard and was not looking too well! After 7km he had 'had it' which was not surprising since he had a temperature of 39°C. We made camp and **LCpl Turner** relieved of his bergen was taken back to Finse by a flatter albeit longer route. The doctor confirmed he had tonsilitis and he was RTU'd. Then there were five. Having lost half a day's walking, the next day we attempted to get back on schedule, but heavy rain and a bergen falling apart meant that we only managed about 18km before we were forced to make camp. The third day we got back on schedule by marching over 30km but were attacked by millions of mosquitoes which meant that the last 10km were done at a cracking pace.

The next few days were much easier and enjoyable as we had climbed out of the swamps and back into the mountains, but the wonderful scenery was wasted on **Sig Carl Parry**. The only way **Sig John Amos** was kept going was by insisting that there was a disco over the next ridge. Eventually we made it to Haukeisaiter where the Japanese tourists confirmed their beliefs when they saw the size of our bergens, that the Brits must be crazy people.

The walking phase over we looked forward to swapping boots for paddles. After moving by bus to Ose we picked up the canoes.

The first phase of the canoeing was flat water when we 'sat back' and enjoyed the views, the water being so warm that 'skinny dipping' was the order of the day. **Sgt Tatman**, the canoe instructor, with his impeccable map reading guided us to the sea.

The sea canoeing was undoubtedly the highlight of the expedition. With six foot swells the going was certainly interesting and surprisingly nobody overturned.

So with legs and arms like athletes the expedition members returned to Herford. It had certainly not been a relaxing holiday but stimulating nevertheless.

HELLO AND FAREWELLS

The Troop welcomes **Sgt Stuart** and **Sue Morrin** and **LCpl Andy** and **Tracy Turner.**

We say farewell to **Capt John Walker**. We are sincerely sorry to see him go, but wish him all the best in his new appointment as Training Officer, 13 Sig Regt.

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj C. J. Burton**
2IC	**Capt A. P. Crane**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) W. Brown**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) N. Griffiths**
OC A	**2Lt I. L. Meers**
OC B	**2Lt J. D. Forrest**
SSgt	**ASSgt D. Rutter**
	(August 1988 **SSgt D. Cleary**)

Squadron life has been quite busy over the last couple of months. Ex Main Brace saw the publication of *The Daily Gauntlet*, a local newspaper for the Headquarters and Signal Squadron in the field.

SSgt Denis Rutter was nominated Editor, assisted by **Sgt Rev Bolam, WO2 (YofS) Brown** and **Cpl 'Baz' Brooks**. Golden Blanket Award went to **SSgt Rutter** with **2Lt Forrest** coming a very close second. When asked by **YofS Brown** how he had found the exercise, **2Lt Forrest** was heard to exclaim 'oh, not bad, but it's doing both my heads in'.

At the end of May, the Squadron performed very well in the Morrison Cup Competition. Defending last year's hard won titles at Sennelager, the team was pipped at the post for first place by one point by 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. A few days later the team gained second place again, this time in the Divisional Championships. The team bade a sad farewell to its Manager, **SSM Mick Orrell,** and **Cpls Dave Gill** and **Mark Leigh**.

The Squadron congratulates **Cpl D. J. Gill** on his promotion to Sergeant on posting to 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Cpl Leigh** moves to 243 Sig Sqn.

June saw various elements of the Squadron deployed on Ex High Pass. While nonetheless very important, this exercise is in the running for the most 'tedious exercise of the year' award. The only highlight was the birth of a baby girl to **Cpl Alan** and **Mrs Weeks**. Congratulations!

The end of June saw us deployed on Ex Summer Sales. **2Lt Meers** enhanced his reputation for being perpetually hungry on arrival at Tac HQ with his 'Hello, got any choccy bars?'.

Numpty of the exercise award went to a certain pioneer JNCO for his marvellous performance. On replacing the mantle within a tilly lamp, the JNCO strictly followed the instructions on the box. In order to warm it up, it was necessary to 'torch the mantle for five minutes'. Whereupon the JNCO duly shone a right-angled torch on it for the required five minutes. It took some rather amused fellow chunkies to explain the error of his ways.

June and July saw a number of personalities leaving the Squadron. **Pte Clarke RPC, Cpl Dave Gold, Cpl Dave Gill, Cpl Mark Leigh** and **Capt Tony Crane. Capt Tony Crane** has left the army to go walkabout around the world. We wish those who have departed all the very best. We also say goodbye in the very near future to **Sgt Rev Bolam** and **Sgt 'Geordie' Maughan**, off to Blandford to do the Yeomans and Foremans Course respectively. We wish them and **Pippa** and **Coral** all the best for the future.

STOP PRESS

BASKETBALL

Overcoming opposition in the 4 Div Minor Units competition, the Squadron beat 211 Sig Sqn and 65 Corps Sp Sqn RE to win the competition. Scores were:-

Semi Final	211—22pts	200—29 pts
Final	65—34 pts	200—39 pts

Regrettably, the Squadron did not do quite so well in the BAOR Finals but nonetheless made a commendable effort.

HERMANSLAUF

Also known as 'Hermans Jiff', this 14km team run was held on an extremely warm May Day. A good effort was put in by all team members in a competition in which most Garrison Units participated. The team thanks **SSM Chris Charlton** for all his efforts as Team Captain.

SQMS DEPT PERSONALITIES

SSgt (SQMS) Mick Ara, Cpl Monty Moore, LCpl Tony Taylor, LCpl Pete Marsden, Pte Pat Patterson and **Sig Bud Mountfield**.

The most significant part of this period has been operating as a self-accounting unit for a trial period of six months. Once everything had been prepared their was a large influx of demands which came from Alpha and Bravo Tps, but after the first month everything quietened down and the department is now running more efficiently than ever.

Our exercise commitment over the last period has been very hectic indeed, starting off with Ex Flying Falcon which is our favourite.

Ex Fast Train was the Squadron's Infantry Exercise. The exercise ended with an assault on Asmuu Bridge and a notable dive by **Monty Moore** into a river as he was trying to secure the farside. **Sig Bud Mountfield** did his bit with a section carrying the GPMG. All in all it was a good exercise.

Ex Main Brace and Summer Sales kept us all busy.

There was plenty of hump the tables off and put the tents up and then hump them on and take the tents down. There was also plenty of sleep for **Sgt Pat Gibney**.

Congratulations to **Tony Taylor** on his marriage to **Michelle** and to **Sig Bud Mountfield** on passing his B2 Exam.

200 Signal Squadron SAAM May 1988 Prize Winners
Top (L to R): LCpl Dave Reilley RCT, Sig 'Bud' Mountfield, LCpl Ken Till, Cpls Alan Weeks, Dave Robson, Sig 'Tiny' Purnell, SSgt Rutter, LCpl Pete O'Brien, LCpl M. Howarth, Sgt Mick Tanser and LCpl Ian Even
Bottom (L to R): Pte Jim Mundy RPC, LCpl Mick Hum, Sig Dave Morton, Cpl Dave Gill, Sig 'Chaz' Challiner, Billy Bremner and Cpl Neil Tengrove

L to R: Pte Steve Smith RPC, Sgt Rev Bolam and Cpl Graham McCullah REME after the 100m dash

Brig M. J. D. Walker Comd 20 Armd Bde, presents the prize for the falling plate competition to: *L to R:* LCpl Dave Reilley RCT, LCpl Pete 'House' O'Brien, Pte Jim Munday RPC and Sig 'Bud' Mountfield

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

PERSONALITIES

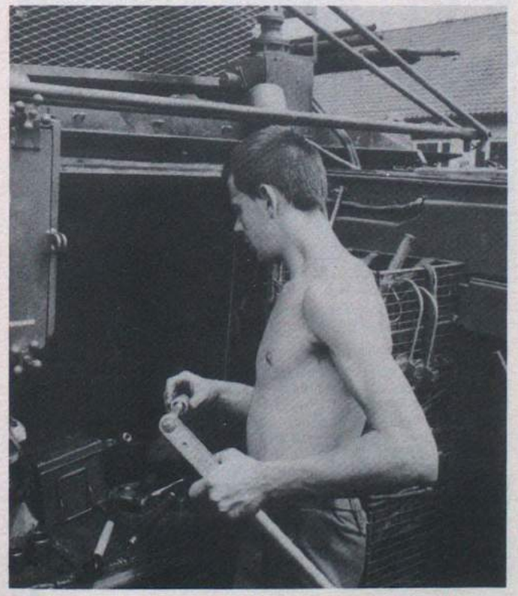
OC	**Maj K. J. Hadfield**
2IC	**Capt A. P. Hudson**
OC A Tp	**Lt R. S. Appleton**
OC B Tp	**Lt I. J. Bradshaw**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. T. Fairfield**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) S. J. Whytock**
FofS	**SSgt M. W. Thomas**
A Tp SSgt	**SSgt N. W. J. Barnard**
B Tp SSgt	**SSgt W. J. Kelly**
CC	**Sgt G. H. Pollard BEM**

EXERCISE SUMMER SALES 1988

At the end of June, 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn deployed on Ex Summer Sales: or most of it did, well some of it did. The shooting team had already departed for Bisley for a month and so were unavailable. Shortly before the exercise OC, **Maj Ken Hadfield**, had been explaining to Comd 11 Armd Bde why our swimming team would be unable to go to Berlin for the BAOR Swimming Championships but **Brig J. J. J. Phipps** said 'of course they must go'.

And so, battle plans were drawn up accordingly to take account of the gladiators and the soldiers. The soldier deployed led by the OC, **Maj Ken Hadfield**. For once B Troop were there first to take main in the field while A Troop were relegated to a small wood as step-up. The Squadron had all been fully briefed about live enemy in the field, and so all precautions were taken; extra sentries, NBC sentry, trenches, and even cam-cream. It soon became apparent that not everyone had been briefed so thoroughly about this threat and were certainly not taking it so seriously.

Later the exercise quickened. The pressure was certainly on in Comms Ops, especially for **WO2 (YofS) Steve Whytock**. Meanwhile, the recce officer, **Capt Paul Hudson** and his driver/interpreter, **Sgt Terry McEleavey** were sent out to look for yet another location. At the end of the day (as Field Officers' say) the Squadron emerged with panzers still mobile and reputations intact. Special mention to **Sig 'Griff' Griffiths** and **SSgt Bill Kelly**, jointly nominated for devising the most original way of neutralising swarms of flies.



Days were spent preparing for this shot of Sig Griffiths

The three wise monkeys in the cookhouse
Left to Right: Dvr Lloyd, SSgt (SQMS) Herbison and Dvr Johnson

Sgt 'Rusty' Bullock prepares for bed, determined to get the Golden Blanket Award

Sig Murray of the Air Det

BAOR SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once the swimming team, led by **Lt Bert Appleton**, had successfully qualified for the BAOR Swimming Championships, they were handed over for training to **Sgt Terry McEleavey**. Left behind to train while the remainder of the Squadron deployed on Ex Summer Sales the team worked hard to justify the privilege.

Once in Berlin, each member of the eight-man team swam his personal best times in the event, but against strong competition only managed to achieve eighth place. Special mentions to **Cpl Pete Fowler** and **Pte Mark Tunley** for their contribution to an action-packed week.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

A WEEKEND IN THE ALLGAU
(Courtesy of the RSM)

Amongst the many adventure training 'huts' in Bavaria is one jointly run by 7 Sig Regt and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The hut is situated in the village of Nesselwang deep in the Allgau region of Bavaria. The word 'hut' as with most such establishments, is a complete misnomer—it's a 20 room hotel. In winter it's Snow Queen of course and in summer, challenge Pursuits—plenty of hills and lakes.

Back in March the RSM **WO1 Andy Hickling** thought (out loud) that it would be a great idea to take the Warrant Officers of the Regiment down for their own mini 'summer camp'. Everybody said 'yes', lots of people said they wanted come, then finally 10 of us got away. We played dodgems up and down the autobahn with Irishmen going to Stuttgart to see the Republic of Ireland beat England, but we all managed to get there in one piece. After being there less than an hour somebody said 'let's go for a run' and it was at this stage we discovered that all hills in Bavaria are big hills and following a man like **WO1 Tony Shaw** is not a good idea; he even impressed the Allgau cows, bells and all.

The next day somebody said 'let's go for a walk', everyone agreed, not knowing what was to come. We all started off gently—a cable car for the first 1,500m upwards. It was during this ascent we discovered **SM Alan Gold**'s love of heights. We then had a mount of 300 more metres of track suitable for mountain goats leading to the top of the Breitenberg at 1,838m proving that the laws of gravity can be defied in getting **SSM Jim Reeves** and **Andy Melville** to such altitude, combined weight of 37 stones (Newton must have written something about this). The views from the top can only be described as breathtaking with magnificent scenery all around us. We were treated to a choral recital by a group of German walkers and not to be outdone **QMSI Dave Warburton** gave an impromptu rendition of 'Singing in the Rain'.

What goes up must come down, and come down some very steep slopes we did. Eventually after a further 12km of ups and downs we arrived back at Nesselwang tired and with a few blisters to show for our days effort. That evening a mini-regimental dinner was held in the local Post Hotel. What happened in the mess will not be related but, as for the bill—we didn't see much change out of DM500!

The next day nobody suggested walking or running, at last his legs were hurting as well. Some of the party went through Austria to the Zugspitz but decided the DM48.00 it cost to ascend the mountain could be put to better use, also **SM Alan Gold** and **SSgt Ray Bruce**, an honorary Warrant Officer for the weekend, had to be revived just looking at the cable car! The rest of the party went bird watching and swimming at the Alpsee, one of the many lakes nearby which is excellent for board and dinghy sailing.

Monday morning arrived all to soon, a great time was had by all, everyone wants to go back providing the running and walking are not compulsory or, unless the chairlift goes all the way.

Sgt Maj Jim Reeves sheds a few pounds

The Party reach the summit

The posers of the party QMSI Dave Warburton, Sgt Maj Rab Young (with the mineral water), and SSgt (Hon Warrant Officer) Ray Bruce

Sgt Maj Micky Dunn tries to find an easy way home while Sgt Maj Andy Melville can't bear to look how far there is to go!

THE VISIT OF PONTYPOOL RFC

What started off as a bit of a pipe dream became reality when the Pontypool rugby team visited the regiment for a week long tour. The visitors from Wales brought their full first team squad (less two players on tour with Wales in New Zealand) including such distinguished players as **David Bishop, Graham Price, Mark Brown** and coach, ex international **John Perkins**.

Pontypool played three games in all, their opponents being 7 Sig Regt, a Royal Signals BAOR Corps team and the 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales. Although the results were always going to be a forgone conclusion, spectators at all games were treated to a feast of open rugby with over 50 tries being scored in the 3 games. It should be noted that 10 of these tries were scored by the Army teams so it wasn't just one way traffic.

Rugby aside, Pontypool were a very sociable rugby team, with the committee basing itself in the Sergeants' Mess where they gave nightly renditions of Welsh choral music. A firm bond of friendship was forged between the Regiment and Pontypool; so much so, that the club have offered all its facilities to the Regiment when the rugby team visits Wales for the annual Kape tour in September.

For the record the scores were:-

7 Sig Regt	18 v Pontypool 48
1st Bn RRW	30 v Pontypool 56
Royal Corps of Signals	6 v Pontypool 62

Lt Neil Selby tries to thwart another Pontypool attack

SPORTSMANS DINNER

To coincide with the visit of Pontypool Rugby Football Club, the now annual Sportsmans Dinner was held in the newly refurbished Spearhead Club. Two of the Pontypool Club agreed to be guests of honour. Namely, **Mr Graham Price**, the most capped Welsh Forward of all times, and **Mr John Perkins**, ex Welsh International second row forward and current Pontypool coach, who was the guest speaker.

John Perkins gave a tremendous speech to an audience drawn from representatives of all aspects of sports played within the regiment. Even **Capt (TOT) Micky Banks**, the football officer, was seen to laugh at the Rugby jokes.

Without doubt, the Sportsmans Dinner has become a favourite event amongst the sporting gladiators of the regiment and has proved a popular way to award sporting colours.

Sportsmen and their Trophies

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DFDS SEAWAYS

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES VISIT

On Thursday 21 July the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, **Mr Ian Stewart MP** visited the Regiment. He showed a keen interest in everything he saw and also found time during his tight programme to talk to some of the soldiers under training.

2 TROOP
1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES
Lt Nick Walker
Sgt Scot Sherrard
Cpl 'Stu' Conway
Cpl Chris 'Moss' Hymas
Cpl John Laffey
Cpl Pete Plevin

On Saturday 16 July 30 members of 2 Troop, together with 1 Troop, 'passed off' on the completion of 9 weeks basic recruit training. Ahead lies a well earned two weeks of leave, except for those like **Sig 'Ruddy' Hall**, who started their trade training at 8 Sig Regt.

The Parade was reviewed by the Regimental Colonel, **Col M. L. W. Jennings**, who also presented the prizes to:-

Best Shot	**Sig Hamer**
Best Endeavour	**Sig Stephenson**

At the same time **Sig Wringe** presented **Miss Jean Mitchell**, Head of Midwifery at Northallerton Hospital with a cheque to the value of £1,320 for hospital charities. The recruits conducted a sponsored 'bed push' around the Garrison to raise these funds, and are congratulated on such a fine effort.

Adult recruits of 4 Tp, 1 Sqn with the Minister

The Minister with RSSSC No 269

3 (JUNIOR SOLDIERS) SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Roger Harris**
AO	**WO1 Len Rowland-Jones**
SSM	**SSgt Barry Stephens**
SQMS	**SSgt Keith Sandy**
Trg Wing	**Sgt Williams**
	Sgt Dunleavy
	Sgt Gardner
Civilian Wing	**Mrs Cynthia Sant WRVS**
	Mrs Rene Cox
	Mr Doug Thorpe

This has been another fairly busy period with the troops getting up to some unusual activities—all legal! We bade a sad farewell to the Sqn Comd, **Maj Alan Griffiths**, who has taken over as Regimental 2IC, 11 Sig Regt and also to **Lt Mike Nott** who has rebadged and joined 3 Para.

The Squadron, as a whole, has been involved in hosting various visitors including parents of the September intake.

KOHIMA TROOP

The remaining 41 members of Kohima Tp passed off on 1 July, 51 started the course and 3 were back-trooped. During the course, members represented the Regiment at the Junior Army Cross Country and Junior Army Orienteering Championships, with some notable efforts from **JSig O'Rourke, JSig England** and **JLCpl Del-Llano**. In between training we also fielded a team in the NEDIST Skill-at-Arms Meeting and although not in the medals class, they nevertheless produced creditable results.

Other notable events during the course were Battle Camp, when **Sgt Benson** went swimming and culvert exploring, all during the same day. Ex Kohima Canter, where 11 members of Kohima Tp attempted to run 200 miles in 24 hours in 3 mile relays. They covered 213 miles, the 200th being covered by **JSig Russell** in a time somewhat slower than his original lap. It was a creditable effort by all the lads including the support team during which money was raised for the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well appeal.

It is farewell now to all the lads who head for 8 Sig Regt and trade training and special Good Luck to **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** who, although no longer taking such an active part in the 'Save the Panda Fund', will be a great asset to 7 Sig Regt and **Cpl 'Flintstone' Gaston** who goes to the 4th Division on a much deserved promotion to Sergeant.

PRIZEWINNERS

Best Junior Soldier	**JLCpl Pogson**
Best Shot	**JSig Russell**
Best Endeavour	**JSig Hughes**
Best Section	1 Section—**Cpl Gaston**
Military Calculations	**JSig O'Rourke**
Communication Skills	**JSig England**
Orientation for Service	**JSig Castle**
Map Reading	**JSig Taylor**
Best Overall	**JSig England**

Kohima Tp—The Reviewing Officer inspects the front rank

ULSTER TROOP
EXERCISE SUMMER GRAIL II

In mid-May the CO announced that Ulster Tp would be providing a 12 man team for the Junior Skill-at-Arms meeting to be held at Bisley. This left us with the problem of what to do with the 33 remaining soldiers. A lot of ideas were forthcoming. The SSM suggested a week of outside area cleaning, that was greeted with great enthusiasm—for exactly three seconds. The Sqn Comd called an O Group and 30 minutes later the Tp Comd arrived back at the Troop lines and informed the Tp Sgt that the Troop would be required to walk the mere 120 miles of the Cleveland Way for charity. After a pause, he further announced that, with great regret, he would not be participating as he was going to captain the Bisley team—carry on **Sgt Tough**!

An Ulster charity was selected, stores were drawn, feet were prepared and on Sunday 10 July we left Catterick for the start point at Helmsley. Seven hours later and some 25 miles covered saw our arrival at Osmotherley where **Cpls 'Taff' Webb** and **Bedford** were waiting to transport us to the Base Camp, situated in the beautiful little village of Hutton Rudby.

It was at this location that the old adage 'time spent in recce is seldom wasted' was brought home to **Sgt 'Geordie' Tough**. The first Public House he entered he found himself face to face with **Maj Alan Griffiths**, the Regimental 2IC. The soldiers, led by **Cpl 'Taff' Webb**, immediately adopted various guises and beat a hasty retreat to Base Camp leaving **Sgt 'Geordie' Tough** to bluff his way out and buy the 2IC a drink!

Monday saw us begin the second leg of the walk which was generally accepted as the hardest part. On arrival at Kildale it was discovered that **JSig Buttle** and **Craig** were missing.

Local villagers reported that two people matching their descriptions were last seen heading in the direction of the coast, some 30 miles away. A search party seemed our only alternative, but due to a lack of volunteers, we decided to head back to the Base Camp. The JSigs in question were later picked up by the friendly **Cpl 'Taff' Webb** who had missed his evening meal as a result.

Tuesday saw our arrival at Saltburn which is right on the Yorkshire coast. This was a fairly easy walk except for **JSig Buttle** and **Craig** (again) who had actually volunteered to carry the packs for the full 20 miles.

The Summer Grail team outside Filey Lifeboat Station

Over the following days we steadfastly worked our way down the coast towards our ultimate destination, the lifeboat station at Filey. It really was quite hard work and all the lads worked well. Without their continued high spirits and great sense of humour the walk would have been far more arduous. On the Saturday morning at approx 1100 hrs we doubled into Filey to be met by the Sqn Comd, **Capt Roger Harris**, his wife **Elsie**, and our WRVS lady, **Mrs Cynthia Sant**.

The final total raised for the Fleming Fulton School in Belfast is not yet known, but all being well it should be a substantial amount which is a credit to all those who took part and to those who sponsored us.

JUNIOR SOLDIERS SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING—BISLEY
PARTICIPANTS

Lt Matt Fensom—Team Captain, **Cpl Andy Evans**—Coach, **Cpl Tony Tranter**—Coach, **JCpls Watkins, Walford, JLCpl Curley, JSig Bailey, Hobbs, McKenzie, Wilkinson, Botwright, Kidner, Morrison, Ross** and **Ainslie**.

From 11-15 June a team from 3 Sqn competed in the Junior Soldiers Skill-at-Arms Meeting (JSSAM) which was held at Bisley. The week started in high spirits. The team (including the volley ball net) was crammed onto the coach which departed at 0830 hrs, with the rear axle just above the road surface. To our surprise there was no singing on the bus, however, another pastime was pursued in earnest—sleeping. We were led, of course, by the OC **Lt Matt Fensom** who has the art off to a tee. After a brief stop and a few hours later we arrived at Bisley Camp which looked just like a scene out of Mash.

The shooting team

Accommodation was provided in luxury 160lb tents. After erecting our camp beds and working out how to fit six in a tent we then set off in search of the entertainment. It was somewhat basic to say the least—a room full of video games.

The competition started in earnest on the Wednesday morning. Our inexperience showed but we soldiered on regardless. Our Team Captain and two coaches were remarkably calm throughout the whole competition. After explaining each shoot numerous times it was a little upsetting for them when we inadvertently fired too many rounds at an exposure or even fired at the wrong target!

Our performance in all of the matches was not brilliant but we held our own despite the fact that we had had minimal training time—the main thing being that everyone enjoyed themselves.

It was on the last night that **Cpl Andy Evans** proved himself to be the man of the moment by producing the UNO cards. This provided us with hours of entertainment, enhanced by the antics of **JCpl 'Wally' Walford**.

By Friday the competition was over. Although we hadn't won anything we concluded that it had all been well worth it.

WOMENS ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Mrs Cynthia Sant joined the Regiment on 22 February 1988 as the WRVS representative for 3 (Junior Soldier) Squadron. **Cynthia** has settled in extremely well and is now fully integrated as a valued member of the Permanent Staff. Indeed, she attends all parades, organises games evenings, is a great listener and friend to the Junior Soldiers, and, on a recent badging parade was awarded her cap badge which she wears with 'great pride'. Welcome to the Corps, **Cynthia**!

Our WRVS Lady, Mrs Cynthia Sant

EXERCISE MERCURY'S SERVICE
WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988
Participants:

Lt Matt Fensom, Sgt Eddie McDonald, JCpl Gareth Watkins, JLCpl Jason Curley, JSig Billy McCormick, Steve Evans, Mark MacKenzie, Paul Alford, Steve Robertson, Stuart Williamson and **Craig Phelps.**

From 20 June to 3 July members of 3 Sqn participated in Ex Mercury's Service. It involved the Junior Soldiers being used to 'cover' No 1 Court at this year's Wimbledon Tennis Championships. All those who took part felt they had benefited from being involved in this event.

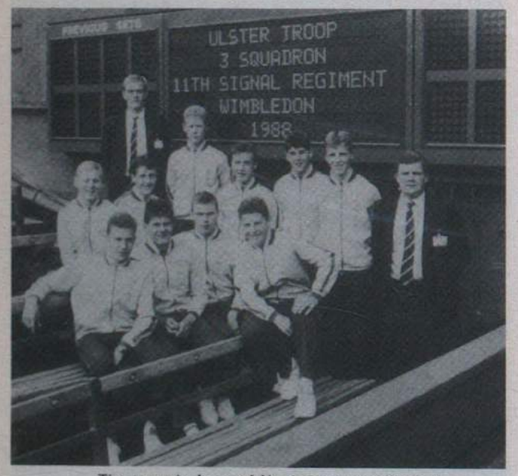
The exercise began on Friday 19 June with a long drive from Catterick to Wimbledon. This was made worse by the fact that the vehicle carrying us and our kit, travelled at 50mph. Accommodation was provided and after settling in, it was time to get heads down for the next day. Well, to be honest, our tasks were not exactly difficult ones and, after a few practises, the lads had just about mastered the art of pulling a huge tarpaulin over the Court.

We weren't required for the Sunday so this left us with a free day. It was well used with a tour of London and an 'educational' stop at the Imperial War Museum! Well, that was all the leisure we were to get because for the next two weeks we were to be up at 0600 hrs, each day, at the Courts by 0800 hrs, and not back at our accommodation until 2100 hrs.

The first day was us in action for the first time when the **Bates v Van Rensburg** match was stopped due to rain and the covers were pulled on. When the decision was made 30 minutes later to remove them, we went back on Court to a loud cheer from the crowd. Prima donnas or what? We even saw ourselves on TV that day for the first time! The excitement was too much. **JSig Paul 'Robot' Alford** created even more excitement and amusement to the spectators when he fell over whilst pulling on the covers—stupid boy!

The rest of the first week was hot and sunny, leaving us little to do but take in the 'sights'? The OC, **Lt Matt Fensom**, just had to buy himself a pair of shades to look the part—no-one knows whom he was trying to impress. If not out and around the grounds then card playing in our dug-out was the order of the day. Nomination seemed to be a favourite but was played to the extent when we opted for Snap—just for a change. The first week also saw some brilliant tennis being played on No 1 Court. The majority of the top stars played on this Court including **McEnroe, Graff** and **Connors**, but, best of all, must have been the **Lendl v Woodforde** match which **Lendl** won by the skin of his teeth.

As we were in the grounds from 0800 hrs and it wasn't open to the public until 1100 hrs we were able to wander around and chat freely to the players. The OC smoothed in on **Stephie Graff**. He now keeps using the line 'As I was saying to **Stephie** only the other day . . . ' **Jeremy Bates**, Britains No 1 player, kindly came and posed for a photo with us and on the whole the players were friendly.



The team in front of No 1 Court scoreboard

The covers come on

As there wasn't a lot of physical activity taking place during week one, **Sgt Eddie McDonald** decided that we should get out for a few early morning runs—the emphasis being on early. 0530 hrs really is a very unsociable hour. It is made worse when you have to run past the Wimbledon queues and then do press ups in front of them whilst waiting for the traffic lights to change to green. Luckily week two brought more activity as we seemed to be pulling the covers on and off ceaselessly. Dressed in our smart Corps tracksuits we really did look the part and put those who covered the outside Courts to shame.

As readers who are avid tennis fans will be aware, the mens' finals day was a washout so the Championships were extended by one day. This, meant that there was not a capacity crowd and so it was quite easy for us to get in and watch the final. It seems sad to say but after two weeks of non-stop tennis it is not difficult to become bored with it, unless you are a real enthusiast.

It must be said, however, that all those who participated did have a thoroughly enjoyable time and an experience never to be forgotten.

BIPARTITE SHOOT

On 18 May a team from the Regiment took part in a Bipartite Shoot against selected Police Officers from the Firearms Section of the Durham Constabulary. The event, the idea for which came from discussions between the Commanding Officer and the Chief Constable, consisted of range practices using the SA80, 9mm Browning Pistol and various Police pattern revolvers. Two teams of four firers were selected and both fired the SA80 and other weapons at ranges up to and including 300m, culminating in a falling plate competition.

The teams then moved to the 30m range where weapons were exchanged, the Police fired 9mm Brownings and the 11 Sig Regt team, Police revolvers. At the end of a very rewarding day, the 11 Sig Regt team was declared the winner. The RSM **WO1 Ben Britton** very kindly offered the teams lunch in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess which ensured that even the runners up departed smiling. It proved a most successful day, which it is hoped will now be a firm fixture in the calendar.

The two teams pose for the camera

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY

Published by the Royal Signals Museum September 1988

ROYAL SIGNALS GALLANTRY AWARDS

The Royal Signals Institution Council is progressing a project to design and manufacture boards displaying the awards for gallantry made to members of the Corps throughout its history. The boards are to be displayed in the Corps Museum and replicas for other locations are under consideration. A listing of the then known awards was published in the July 1987 issue of *The Wire* and in the Summer 1987 issue of *The Royal Signals Institution Journal*, requesting amendments where that listing was found to be inaccurate.

As a result of comments received and further research work with all known documentary sources, a revised listing is now published seeking any final amendments before production of the boards.

Awards made under the Order of the British Empire have proved particularly difficult to research. No citations were written to support such awards and yet it is believed that a small number of awards were made in the early days of the Order which were specifically for gallantry. It is stressed that the project is concerned at present only with gallantry awards which are distinguishable from awards made for 'meritorious service'.

Comments on the attached listing are invited from readers where any omissions or errors are thought to exist, and where there is evidence that any award made of the Order of the British Empire was specifically for gallantry. Comments should be made as soon as possible to:-

The Deputy Director
Royal Signals Museum
Blandford Camp
Dorset
DT11 8RH

and should be supported where possible by any available documentary evidence.

SUMMARY

AWARD	1921-1945	1946	1947	1949	1953	1959	1965	1976	1978	1980	1981	1982	1984	1986	TOTAL
GC	1														1
DSO Bar	10 1	2				1									13 1
MC Bar	82 1	10 1													92 2
DCM	31		1					1							33
MM Bar	359 1	31	2	1			1				1	2			397 1
GM	5														5
QGM Bar									1	1	2		1 1	1	6 1
BEM	7	1			1										9
MSM	1														1
TOTAL	499	45 544	3 547	1 548	1 549	1 550	1 551	1 552	1 553	1 554	3 557	2 559	2 561	1 562	562

RANK	NAME AND INITIALS	AWARD	EVENT OR PLACE	LG No & DATE
1927				
LCpl	E. J. Dickinson	MSM	Gallant Conduct in Waziristan	1046 15 February 1927
1932				
Lt	L. C. C. Harrison	MC	Operations in Burma	8133 20 December 1932
Sig	G. Barnett	MM	Operations in Burma	8133 20 December 1932
1935				
Sig	P. C. Smith	MM	Mohmand—Bravery in the Field	7165 12 November 1935
1937				
Lt Col	W. R. C. Penney	DSO	Waziristan	7998 21 December 1937
LCpl	J. W. Hurst	MM	Waziristan	7998 21 December 1937
Sig	M. Hooper	MM	Waziristan	7998 21 December 1937
1938				
Lt Col	C. H. H. Vulliamy	DSO	Waziristan—1937	5286 16 August 1938
Sig	G. H. Downing	MM	North West Frontier	6500 18 October 1938
1939				
Sig	T. Barr	MM	Waziristan	7949 24 November 1939
1940				
Lt	A. F. Freeman	MC	Distinguished Service in Action	4262 11 July 1940
Lt	E. H. Wilkinson	MC	Distinguished Service in Action	4262 11 July 1940
Lt	G. H. Metson	MC	France/Flanders	7174 20 December 1940
2Lt	S. Scott	MC	France/Flanders	7174 20 December 1940
Lt	J. J. Collins	MC	Gallant Conduct in Action	7197 20 December 1940
Lt	D. C. J. Bell	MC	Gallant Conduct in Action	7197 20 December 1940
WO1	P. W. Phillp	DCM	Distinguished Service in Action	4262 11 July 1940
WO2	W. W. Page	DCM	Distinguished Service in Action	4264 11 July 1940
CQMS	C. F. White	DCM	Distinguished Service in Action	4264 11 July 1940
Sgt	W. Dearlove	DCM	Distinguished Service in Action	4264 11 July 1940
Sgt	G. A. Stanley	DCM	Distinguished Service in Action	4264 11 July 1940
WO2	R. T. Lundie	DCM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	5076 20 August 1940
Sgt	P. D. Legge	DCM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	5076 20 August 1940
Sgt	T. Burke	DCM	Gallant Conduct	6115 22 October 1940
Sgt	L. J. Wells	DCM	Gallant Conduct	6115 22 October 1940
Sig	H. Wheelwright	DCM	Gallant Conduct	6115 22 October 1940
Sig	D. W. Herring	DCM	Distinguished Service in the Field	6802 29 November 1940
Sig	A. Gregory	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4072 5 July 1940
Sgt	T. W. Goldsmith	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4265 11 July 1940
LSgt	H. Beevers	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4265 11 July 1940
Cpl	A. Alexander	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4265 11 July 1940
Cpl	L. Burnside	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4265 11 July 1940
Cpl	E. Gilling	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4265 11 July 1940
Cpl	G. Lawson	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4265 11 July 1940
LCpl	L. Halford	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4265 11 July 1940
Sig	A. Ashford	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266 11 July 1940
Sig	L. A. Baker	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266 11 July 1940
Sig	E. J. Bonsall	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266 11 July 1940
Sig	A. Coxon	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266 11 July 1940
Sig	G. E. Dean	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266 11 July 1940

Sig	A. R. Fish	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	A. Haworth	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	T. F. Hough	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	F. G. Hussey	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	J. T. Latham	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	J. C. MacAlister	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	J. H. Mullard	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	F. L. Shelmerdine	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	T. Thompson	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Dvr	L. H. Watkinson	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	J. W. Wilson	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	4266	11 July 1940
Sig	L. Mammone	MM	Norway	4790	6 August 1940
Sgt	C. A. Turner	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	5077	20 August 1940
Cpl	W. Mitchell	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	5077	20 August 1940
Cpl	J. Taylor	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	5077	20 August 1940
LCpl	P. Costigane	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Recent Operations	5077	20 August 1940
Sig	J. S. Morris	MM	Recent Operations	5077	20 August 1940
Sig	I. Rowland-Jones	MM	Recent Operations	5077	20 August 1940
Cpl	J. H. Bennett	MM	Recent Operations	5203	27 August 1940
LCpl	E. Bennett	MM	Recent Operations	5203	27 August 1940
LCpl	B. T. Hardy	MM	Recent Operations	5203	27 August 1940
LCpl	D. Burke	MM	Recent Operations	5327	3 September 1940
Sig	W. Cotton	MM	Recent Operations	5327	3 September 1940
LCpl	R. L. Lingwood	MM	Gallant Conduct	6116	22 October 1940
Sig	J. A. Cross	MM	Gallant Conduct	6116	22 October 1940
Sig	T. W. Evans	MM	Gallant Conduct	6116	22 October 1940
LCpl	B. J. Williams	MM	France/Flanders	7174	20 December 1940
Sig	W. A. Muckle	MM	France/Flanders	7174	20 December 1940
Sig	J. Evans	MM	Gallant Conduct in Action	7199	20 December 1940
Sig	W. B. Gill	MM	Gallant Conduct in Action	7200	20 December 1940
Sig	A. J. Mouncey	MM	Gallant Conduct in Action	7200	20 December 1940
Sig	G. R. Pendleton	MM	Gallant Conduct in Action	7200	20 December 1940
1941					
Lt Col	C. M. F. White	DSO	Middle East Dec 40-Feb 41	3883	8 July 1941
Capt	H. Pickard	MC	Distinguished Service in the Field	2493	2 May 1941
Lt	V. H. Martin	MC	Middle East	4110	18 July 1941
Sig	R. H. Tinto	GM	Conspicuous Gallantry	3019	27 May 1941
Cpl	G. Burr	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	1349	7 March 1941
Sgt	J. W. Pape	MM	Middle East Aug 39-Nov,40	1869	1 April 1941
Sgt	A. L. Peacock	MM	Middle East Aug 39-Nov 40	1869	1 April 1941
Sig	A. E. P. Spreadbury	MM	Middle East Aug 39-Nov 40	1869	1 April 1941
Cpl	J. G. Flowers	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Sig	H. Anchell	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Sig	S. G. Bicker	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Sig	J. Morrison	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Sig	D. G. Robertson	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Cpl	B. Lawrence	MM	Middle East Dec 40-Feb 41	3884	8 July 1941
LCpl	J. W. Briggs	MM	Middle East	4111	18 July 1941
Sig	L. McDonald	MM	Middle East	6359	4 November 1941
Cpl	F. L. V. Hubbard	MM	Middle East	7337	30 December 1941
Sig	J. H. Allan	MM	Middle East	7337	30 December 1941
Sig	B. E. Turner	MM	Middle East	7337	30 December 1941

LSgt	W. C. Morcom	BEM	Gallant Conduct in Carrying out Hazardous Work in a Very Brave Manner	1428	11 March 1941
LCpl	R. Nelson	BEM	Gallant Conduct in Carrying out Hazardous Work in a Very Brave Manner	4955	26 August 1941
1942					
TCol	W. R. Smijth-Windham	DSO	Middle East	3543	13 August 1942
2Lt	M. Y. Rogers	MC	Middle East	3544	13 August 1942
Lt	C. W. N. Lang	MC	Middle East	4154	24 September 1942
Lt	A. J. Deane-Drummond	MC	Distinguished Service in the Field	4208	29 September 1942
Lt	P. L. Dudgeon	MC	Attached to Special Service Bde	5437	15 December 1942
Lt	W. G. Askew	MC	Middle East	5665	31 December 1942
2Lt	J. B. Carruth	MC	Middle East	5665	31 December 1942
LSgt	W. Jones BEM	DCM	Middle East	895	24 February 1942
Mr	D. H. Baynham	GM	Sea Rescue	491	30 January 1942
Lt	D. S. A. Hutley	GM	Conspicuous Gallantry	4825	6 November 1942
LCpl	A. Lenthall	MM	Middle East	704	12 February 1942
Sig	N. H. Glegg	MM	Middle East	704	12 February 1942
Sgt	R. J. White	MM	Middle East	897	24 February 1942
LSgt	F. S. Plant	MM	Middle East	897	24 February 1942
LCpl	S. H. Lobb	MM	Middle East	897	24 February 1942
Sgt	N. Howard	MM	Middle East	1695	16 April 1942
Cpl	A. Halley	MM	Middle East	1695	16 April 1942
Sgt	S. D. Allaway	MM	Middle East	3545	13 August 1942
LCpl	G. Howard	MM	Middle East	3545	13 August 1942
Sig	R. M. Evans	MM	Middle East	3545	13 August 1942
Sgt	A. J. Blair	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Middle East Nov 41-Apr 42	3950	9 September 1942
Cpl	G. J. Bevan	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Middle East Nov 41-Apr 42	3950	9 September 1942
LSgt	J. Finney	MM	Middle East	4156	24 September 1942
Cpl	D. J. V. Evan	MM	Middle East	4156	24 September 1942
LCpl	J. Taylor	MM	Middle East	4156	24 September 1942
Cpl	R. A. Tarves	MM	Middle East	4480	15 October 1942
Cpl	S. C. Randall	MM	Middle East	4480	15 October 1942
LCpl	O. Evans	MM	Middle East	4480	15 October 1942
Sig	R. W. Lewry	MM	Middle East	4480	15 October 1942
Cpl	G. A. Green	MM	Burma	4689	28 October 1942
Sig	C. Fromberg	MM	Middle East	4796	5 November 1942
Cpl	R. R. F. Langmaid	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5142	26 November 1942
Sig	S. Brandreth	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5142	26 November 1942
Cpl	L. C. Kerr	MM	Middle East	5666	31 December 1942
Sig	A. Thompson	MM	Middle East	5666	31 December 1942
Sig	E. Wilson	MM	Middle East	5666	31 December 1942
1943					
TCol	D. M. Smyth MBE	DSO	Middle East	965	25 February 1943
Maj	F. P. L. Gray OBE	DSO	Middle East	3086	8 July 1943
TBrig	R. T. O. Cary MBE	DSO	Middle East	3421	29 July 1943
TCol	R. H. R. Steward OBE MC	DSO	Sicily	4661	21 October 1943
TCol	R. H. R. Steward DSO OBE MC	Bar to DSO	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East	5173	25 November 1943
Lt	A. R. Knowles	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East May-Oct 42	863	18 February 1943
Lt	J. C. M. Greig	MC	Middle East	965	25 February 1943
Lt	J. D. MacKay	MC	Middle East	1996	4 May 1943
Lt	A. L. Field	MC	Middle East	2760	17 June 1943
Lt	G. S. Currie	MC	Middle East	3314	22 July 1943
Lt	R. F. Locke	MC	Middle East	3314	22 July 1943
Lt	G. R. Noble	MC	Distinguished Service in the Field	3317	22 July 1943

Capt	W. J. Morris	MC	Middle East	4545	14 October 1943
TCapt	A. Fraser	MC	Middle East	4545	14 October 1943
Lt	C. E. Boys	MC	Middle East	4545	14 October 1943
Lt	T. G. Chambers	MC	Middle East	4545	14 October 1943
Lt	W. J. Main	MC	Middle East	4545	14 October 1943
Lt	R. Prendergast	MC	Middle East	4545	14 October 1943
Lt	A. J. Klosser	MC	Middle East	4545	14 October 1943
Lt	D. S. White	MC	Sicily	4662	21 October 1943
Lt	F. A. Wright	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East	5173	25 November 1943
Sgt	J. R. Romaines	DCM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East May-Oct 42	864	18 February 1943
LCpl	J. Wilkinson	DCM	North Africa	2720	15 June 1943
LSgt	C. Nelson	MM	Middle East	321	14 January 1943
Sig	L. E. Anstey	MM	Middle East	526	28 January 1943
Sig	A. Kennedy	MM	Middle East	526	28 January 1943
Sig	J. S. Lees	MM	Middle East	526	28 January 1943
Cpl	T. F. S. Bishton	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Cpl	T. Dixon	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Cpl	R. I. Lockyer	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Cpl	F. C. Turrell	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	H. A. Sherratt	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
LCpl	F. J. Aldridge	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	J. Caladine	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	I. P. T. Cobley	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	S. F. Easteal	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	R. M. Ferguson	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	A. C. Gibson	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Cpl	C. Arnold	MM	Middle East	966	25 February 1943
Cpl	R. H. Best	MM	Middle East	966	25 February 1943
Sig	R. Harrison	MM	Middle East	966	25 February 1943
Sig	J. Turnbull	MM	Middle East	966	25 February 1943
Sig	R. W. Bennett	MM	Middle East	1299	18 March 1943
Cpl	A. F. Fuller	MM	North Africa	1846	22 April 1943
Sig	L. Buck	MM	North Africa	1846	22 April 1943
Sgt	E. Clarke	MM	Middle East	1996	4 May 1943
LSgt	C. G. Barratt	MM	Middle East	1996	4 May 1943
Cpl	G. F. Ames	MM	Middle East	1996	4 May 1943
Sgt	T. MacKenzie	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LSgt	J. E. Hebdon	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
Cpl	A. T. Robinson	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
Sig	W. Tottman	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LCpl	R. C. Lloyd	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LCpl	F. T. Mott	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LCpl	J. J. Raine	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LCpl	T. W. Sales	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
Sig	W. Sutherland	MM	Middle East	3087	8 July 1943
LCpl	R. Plaster	MM	Middle East	3088	8 July 1943
Cpl	W. W. Coull	MM	Middle East	3314	22 July 1943
Sig	D. Hunter	MM	Middle East	3315	22 July 1943
Cpl	M. T. R. Goodchild	MM	Middle East	3723	19 August 1943
LCpl	R. W. Moore	MM	Middle East	3723	19 August 1943
Sig	K. Jones	MM	Middle East	3723	19 August 1943
LCpl	R. Howard	MM	Middle East	3819	26 August 1943
Sgt	H. M. Wilson	MM	North Africa	4219	23 September 1943
Cpl	J. Allison	MM	North Africa	4219	23 September 1943
Cpl	A. F. Kemp	MM	North Africa	4219	23 September 1943
Sig	J. Harriman	MM	North Africa	4219	23 September 1943
Cpl	R. Irons	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	V. Law	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
LSgt	H. F. J. Frampton	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
LSgt	S. J. Pritchard	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	J. H. Harding	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	H. Moss	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	J. Nicholls	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	R. I. Shaw	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	M. P. White	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	G. J. D. Wratten	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
LCpl	C. J. MacDonald	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943

LCpl	R. B. Mayston	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
Sig	H. Molloy	MM	Middle East	4547	14 October 1943
LSgt	J. Roy	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
LCpl	A. Crockett	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
Sig	T. P. Boyd	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
Sig	P. J. Horton	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
Sig	S. Searle	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
Cpl	E. A. Dowles	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
LCpl	D. C. F. Harris	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
LCpl	A. M. Harvey	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
LCpl	J. McA Morans	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
LCpl	C. D. Occomore	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
Sig	W. C. A. Geeves	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
Sgt	E. Barnes	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
LSgt	W. M. Crowther	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
Cpl	E. H. Dawes	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
Sig	C. Hagan	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
LCpl	H. J. C. Woodcock	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
Sgt	W. F. Sherwood	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5374	9 December 1943
Sig	P. MacIntyre	MM	Burma	5473	16 December 1943
Cpl	T. F. Wilson	MM	Sicily	5573	23 December 1943

1944

TLt Col	P. M. P. Hobson	DSO	Services in Burma	2270	18 May 1944
TCapt	C. V. James	MC	Service in Italy	256	13 January 1944
Maj	B. F. M. Franks	MC	Service in Italy	518	27 January 1944
Capt	W. D. Pettit	MC	Service in Italy	937	24 February 1944
Lt	G. J. M. Hopper	MC	Service in Sicily	1364	23 March 1944
TMaj	W. H. L. Gordon	MC	Services in the Field	1926	27 April 1944
Maj	J. R. Piddington	MC	Services in Burma	2270	18 May 1944
Capt	J. T. Stanley	MC	Distinguished Service in the Field	3605	3 August 1944
Lt	J. Y. Ferguson	MC	Italy	3925	24 August 1944
TCapt	J. J. Girotti	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	4786	19 October 1944
Lt	H. F. Tillyard MM	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	4786	19 October 1944
Lt	R. A. Cox	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	585	21 December 1944
LSgt	J. E. Brand	DCM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1367	23 March 1944
LSgt	P. D. Phillips	DCM	Distinguished Service in Italy	1816	20 April 1944
Sig	D. Stewart	DCM	Distinguished Service in Italy	1816	20 April 1944
Sig	L. N. Stephenson	DCM	Distinguished Service in the Field	3274	13 July 1944
LSgt	H. H. Lewis	MM	Service in Italy	519	27 January 1944
WO1	S. Smith	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	620	3 February 1944
Sgt	L. R. D. Willmott	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	620	3 February 1944
Cpl	R. C. Jones	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	620	3 February 1944
Cpl	J. G. Whitby	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	620	3 February 1944
Sgt	C. V. Potterton	MM	Service in Italy	724	10 February 1944
Sig	F. S. Lloyd	MM	Service in Italy	724	10 February 1944
Sig	J. Glancy	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	827	17 February 1944
Cpl	G. H. R. Savage	MM	Service in Italy	938	24 February 1944
Cpl	H. L. Mitchell	MM	Service in Italy	938	24 February 1944
Cpl	G. E. Iles	MM	Service in Italy	1149	9 March 1944
LCpl	H. Bleackley	MM	Service in Sicily	1364	23 March 1944
Cpl	H. W. Willacy	MM	Service in Sicily	1366	23 March 1944
Sig	R. W. Eaglesfield	MM	Service in Sicily	1366	23 March 1944

Cpl	W. H. Morrison	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	1367	23 March 1944
Sgt	A. Prowlin	MM	Service in Italy	1588	6 April 1944
Sig	J. E. Gill	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1927	27 April 1944
Sig	J. Markey	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1927	27 April 1944
Sgt	C. W. L. Ducker	MM	Services in Burma	2270	18 May 1944
LSgt	H. Liptrot	MM	Services in Burma	2270	18 May 1944
LCpl	H. Mawer	MM	Services in Burma	2270	18 May 1944
LSgt	J. F. Thornton	MM	Italy	2853	15 June 1944
LCpl	F. Hyslop	MM	Italy	2853	15 June 1944
Sig	B. W. Hudson	MM	Italy	2853	15 June 1944
WO2	A. L. Phillips	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	2855	15 June 1944
Cpl	J. Lane	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	2855	15 June 1944
Cpl	G. Hamilton	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	2855	15 June 1944
Sig	F. Dale	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	2855	15 June 1944
Sig	J. E. Evans	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	2855	15 June 1944
LCpl	G. Smith	MM	Italy	3071	29 June 1944
Sig	E. D. Cooke	MM	Italy	3071	29 June 1944
Cpl	G. P. Sutherland	MM	Italy	3071	29 June 1944
LSgt	F. Oldroyd	MM	Italy	3604	3 August 1944
LCpl	H. R. Walden	MM	Italy	3604	3 August 1944
Sig	P. J. Harkin	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	3605	3 August 1944
Sig	J. McCallum	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	3605	3 August 1944
Sig	J. B. O'Neill	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	3605	3 August 1944
Sgt	A. D. Cullum	MM	Italy	3924	24 August 1944
Cpl	S. J. Dabner	MM	Italy	3924	24 August 1944
Sig	T. Ball	MM	Italy	3924	24 August 1944
Cpl	M. M. Eastham	MM	Italy	3926	24 August 1944
Sgt	L. G. Nation	MM	Italy	3926	24 August 1944
Sig	R. Warburton	MM	Italy	3926	24 August 1944
LCpl	R. W. Bennett MM	Bar to MM	Normandy	4047	31 August 1944
LSgt	L. E. Richards	MM	Normandy	4048	31 August 1944
Cpl	J. L. Hanlon	MM	Normandy	4048	31 August 1944
Cpl	T. Waters	MM	Normandy	4048	31 August 1944
LCpl	D. A. Bowstead	MM	Normandy	4048	31 August 1944
LCpl	E. A. Redshaw	MM	Normandy	4048	31 August 1944
Sig	L. Grimshaw	MM	Normandy	4048	31 August 1944
Sig	A. McK McGregor	MM	Normandy	4048	31 August 1944
Sig	J. Redden	MM	Burma	4052	31 August 1944
WO2	G. H. Hughes	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	4250	14 September 1944
Sgt	H. J. Bell	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	4250	14 September 1944
Cpl	J. D. Duncan	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	4250	14 September 1944
Sig	J. Morris	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	4250	14 September 1944
Sig	M. M. Sutton	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	4250	14 September 1944
Sgt	A. Johnstone	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	4571	5 October 1944
Sig	A. Lawson	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	4571	5 October 1944
Cpl	F. W. Bulbeck	MM	North West Europe	4789	19 October 1944
Cpl	M. D. Chiosso	MM	North West Europe	4789	19 October 1944
Cpl	E. A. Foster	MM	North West Europe	4789	19 October 1944
LCpl	G. H. White	MM	North West Europe	4789	19 October 1944
LCpl	J. Woolgar	MM	North West Europe	4789	19 October 1944
Sgt	F. T. Roberts	MM	Italy	4902	26 October 1944

LCpl	J. A. Causer	MM	Italy	4902	26 October 1944
Sig	E. Shackleton	MM	Italy	4902	26 October 1944
Sgt	J. I. Patterson	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	5130	9 November 1944
Sig	E. G. Tolhurst	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	5130	9 November 1944
Sgt	P. A. A. Court	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	5131	9 November 1944
LCpl	R. H. Bagley	MM	Italy	5613	7 December 1944
Sig	D. R. Bawden	MM	Italy	5613	7 December 1944
Sgt	T. Bullerwell	MM	Italy	5852	21 December 1944
LSgt	R. Lowe	MM	Italy	5852	21 December 1944
Cpl	H. Lucas	MM	Italy	5852	21 December 1944
Cpl	E. Ploughman	MM	Italy	5852	21 December 1944
Sgt	E. J. Elliott	MM	North West Europe	5858	21 December 1944

1945

Sig	K. Smith	GC	Conspicuous Gallantry	5105	19 October 1945
Maj	R. B. Williamson	DSO	Distinguished Services in the Field	5006	11 October 1945
TMaj	G. F. Johnson	MC	North West Europe	678	1 February 1945
Lt	S. R. Collins	MC	North West Europe	678	1 February 1945
Capt	A. L. Field MC	Bar to MC	North West Europe	1173	1 March 1945
TMaj	F. D. Thorpe	MC	North West Europe	1175	1 March 1945
Lt	A. H. Howard	MC	North West Europe	1175	1 March 1945
Lt	T. Scholes	MC	North West Europe	1175	1 March 1945
TCapt	I. Marchant	MC	Distinguished Service in the Field	1186	1 March 1945
TCapt	T. C. B. Henderson	MC	Italy	1299	8 March 1945
Lt	J. E. Drake	MC	North West Europe	1710	29 March 1945
TCapt	E. C. Higgs	MC	North West Europe	1710	29 March 1945
Capt	G. K. Parsons	MC	Italy	1944	12 April 1945
Capt	P. L. Berry	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2073	19 April 1945
Capt	W. M. Park	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Burma	2212	26 April 1945
Capt	R. O. M. Williams	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	2451	10 May 1945
Lt	H. W. Gamon	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2453	10 May 1945
Lt	J. W. Fullarton	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	2648	24 May 1945
Maj	G. F. Bayliss MBE	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	2878	7 June 1945
Lt	J. E. Evans	MC	North West Europe	3232	21 June 1945
Lt	J. Jeeves	MC	North West Europe	3232	21 June 1945
TCapt	A. Hollifield	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3377	28 June 1945
TCapt	G. Morton	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3377	28 June 1945
TCapt	N. R. Williams	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3377	28 June 1945
Lt	A. L. Phillips	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3377	28 June 1945
Capt	S. A. Day	MC	St Nazaire 27 March 1942	3493	5 July 1945
WO2	J. D. Tucker	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Burma	3597	12 July 1945
TMaj	A. C. Holland	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	3962	2 August 1945
AMaj	N. D. Clive	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	3962	2 August 1945
Lt	C. A. H. Barker	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Burma	4677	20 September 1945
Lt	W. Millet	MC	Distinguished Services in Calais 1940	4682	20 September 1945
TMaj	A. W. Barron	MC	Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4999	11 October 1945

TMaj	J. B. Dalrymple	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4999	11 October 1945
TCapt	G. E. D. Hopkins	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4999	11 October 1945
TCapt	A. J. Keates	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4999	11 October 1945
TCapt	R. A. Sykes	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4999	11 October 1945
Lt	H. C. Ackroyd	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4999	11 October 1945
Lt	T. J. Christie	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4999	11 October 1945
Lt	P. S. Snell	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4999	11 October 1945
2Lt	A. Bigar	MC	Distinguished Service in the Field	5006	11 October 1945
TCapt	J. G. James	MC	Distinguished Service in Burma	5575	15 November 1945
Lt	P. S. Clapham	MC	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	6075	13 December 1945
Capt	W. Stubbs	MC	Distinguished Service in Malaya 1942	6080	13 December 1945
WO2	H. Brooke	DCM	Distinguished Service in the Field	210	4 January 1945
Sgt	K. D. Robey	DCM	Distinguished Service in the Field	210	4 January 1945
LSgt	E. O. Smith	DCM	Burma	802	8 February 1945
LCpl	W. Hoggett	DCM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1427	13 March 1945
Cpl	C. E. Monk	DCM	Burma	1544	22 March 1945
Sig	F. E. Rodriguez	DCM	Distinguished Services in the Field	3241	21 June 1945
Loc WO2	W. M. P. Ryan	DCM	Distinguished Services in the Field	3962	2 August 1945
ASgt	H. D. Laybourne	DCM	Distinguished Services in the Field	3962	2 August 1945
Sgt	K. A. J. Scott	DCM	Distinguished Services in the Field	4043	9 August 1945
CQMS	C. A. A. Chatterley	DCM	Distinguished Services in the Field	4043	9 August 1945
LSgt	D. S. J. Gillespie	DCM	Distinguished Services in the Field	5098	18 October 1945
Cpl	J. S. Greenhalgh	DCM	Distinguished Services in the Field	5211	25 October 1945
Sgt	A. H. Tracey	DCM	Distinguished Services in the Field	5790	29 November 1945
Lt	R. A. Cox	GM	Conspicuous Gallantry	2881	8 June 1945
Sgt	G. Hooper	GM	Conspicuous Gallantry	2881	8 June 1945
Sig	J. H. Charleston	MM	Burma	208	4 January 1945
Sig	A. E. Ward	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	208	4 January 1945
Sgt	A. W. G. Weatherley	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	210	4 January 1945
LSgt	A. Richardson	MM	North West Europe	679	1 February 1945
LSgt	L. R. Reed	MM	North West Europe	679	1 February 1945
Sgt	J. E. Beautyman	MM	Italy	798	8 February 1945
Cpl	G. E. Priddle	MM	Italy	798	8 February 1945
LCpl	A. B. Thorpe	MM	Italy	798	8 February 1945
WO1	D. A. Gulliford	MM	Burma and Eastern Frontier of India	803	8 February 1945
Cpl	R. J. Quy	MM	Burma and Eastern Frontier of India	803	8 February 1945
Sig	F. P. Hammond	MM	Burma and Eastern Frontier of India	803	8 February 1945
Sig	J. J. Sewell	MM	Burma and Eastern Frontier of India	803	8 February 1945
CQMS	R. Wride	MM	Burma and Eastern Frontier of India	803	8 February 1945
Sgt	D. Miles	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
Sgt	J. Millar	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
LSgt	T. O. Pattinson	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945

LSgt	H. Taylor	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
Cpl	R. D. B. Stockdale	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
LCpl	G. S. Donaldson	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
LCpl	F. J. Speller	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
Sig	A. Carmichael	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
Sig	J. Dand	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
Sig	G. Nourse	MM	North West Europe	1180	1 March 1945
Sig	A. MacDonald	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1180	1 March 1945
LCpl	J. Frost	MM	Italy	1300	8 March 1945
LCpl	J. M. Holder	MM	Italy	1300	8 March 1945
CQMS	D. A. MacDonell	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1428	15 March 1945
Cpl	H. W. Stevenson	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1428	15 March 1945
Sgt	J. J. Graveling	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	1543	22 March 1945
Cpl	S. W. Duke	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	1543	22 March 1945
LCpl	G. N. Christie	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	1543	22 March 1945
Cpl	D. L. Danger	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	1711	29 March 1945
Sig	S. P. Brice	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	1712	29 March 1945
Sig	P. D. Etherington	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	1712	29 March 1945
LCpl	R. W. Miles	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	1943	12 April 1945
LSgt	L. J. Edwards	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2075	19 April 1945
LSgt	J. McIntosh	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2075	19 April 1945
Cpl	L. G. Goodman	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2075	19 April 1945
Cpl	L. Granger	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2075	19 April 1945
LCpl	E. Herd	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2075	19 April 1945
Sig	L. J. Arnold	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2075	19 April 1945
Sig	E. F. Laycock	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Italy	2075	19 April 1945
Sgt	H. C. V. Dodd	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Burma	2213	26 April 1945
Sgt	A. E. Andrewartha	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	2336	3 May 1945
CQMS	S. Grattage	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	2455	10 May 1945
LCpl	F. E. Griffee	MM	North West Europe	2452	10 May 1945
LSgt	J. B. Smart	MM	North West Europe	2878	7 June 1945
Cpl	A. Lord	MM	North West Europe	2878	7 June 1945
LCpl	W. R. Oscroft	MM	North West Europe	2878	7 June 1945
Sig	L. W. Tebbett	MM	North West Europe	2878	7 June 1945
Cpl	E. Firth	MM	North West Europe	3228	21 June 1945
Cpl	J. W. Firth	MM	North West Europe	3228	21 June 1945
Sgt	T. J. Beeching	MM	North West Europe	3233	21 June 1945
Sgt	N. Ryder	MM	North West Europe	3233	21 June 1945
Cpl	C. F. Lawrence	MM	North West Europe	3233	21 June 1945
Cpl	T. Watson	MM	Distinguished Service in Italy	3236	21 June 1945
Cpl	R. W. J. Hadnett	MM	Distinguished Service in France/Flanders 1940	3240	21 June 1945
CQMS	J. S. S. Menzies	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	3240	21 June 1945
Sgt	A. C. B. Sowden	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	3240	21 June 1945
Sgt	L. Cotterell	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945

LSgt	F. F. Hunt	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
Cpl	A. M. Ferguson	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
Cpl	F. Jones	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
Cpl	J. N. Waite	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
LCpl	G. T. Booth	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
LCpl	B. T. Bussey	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
LCpl	A. R. Flint	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
Sig	G. N. Gardener	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
Sig	L. Swire	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
Sig	H. R. Ward	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	3379	28 June 1945
Sgt	R. W. Sanger	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Burma	3383	28 June 1945
Cpl	J. S. Glassford	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	3594	12 July 1945
Cpl	E. J. Landau	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	3594	12 July 1945
LCpl	A. McD. Ross	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	3594	12 July 1945
Sig	D. Clarke	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	3594	12 July 1945
Sig	M. Reilly	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	3594	12 July 1945
Sig	L. Knight	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	3858	26 July 1945
Sig	W. Thomas	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	3858	26 July 1945
Cpl	P. MacLean	MM	Distinguished Services in Italy	4270	23 August 1945
Sig	S. A. E. Gregory	MM	Distinguished Services in Italy	4270	23 August 1945
Cpl	S. Manock	MM	Distinguished Services in Italy	4676	20 September 1945
LCpl	W. E. Venables	MM	Distinguished Services in Italy	4676	20 September 1945
Sig	F. J. Nutbeam	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	4684	20 September 1945
CQMS	E. Everitt	MM	Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4885	4 October 1945
Sgt	W. A. Pickering	MM	Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4885	4 October 1945
Sgt	J. B. Scott	MM	Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4885	4 October 1945
Cpl	A. W. Birch	MM	Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4885	4 October 1945
Cpl	J. Y. McDougall	MM	Distinguished Services in North West Europe	4885	4 October 1945
WO3	J. H. Moonie	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field	5007	11 October 1945
Sgt	D. Morrison	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
Sgt	A. S. Todd	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
LSgt	J. Cairnie	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
LSgt	L. C. Owens	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
Cpl	P. Elliott	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
Cpl	H. S. Ellis	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
Cpl	J. G. W. Hack	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
Cpl	A. Marshall	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945

Cpl	D. G. Phillips	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
LCpl	W. C. Bastabel	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
LCpl	E. Firth	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
LCpl	G. G. Hoy	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
LCpl	F. V. Lassetter	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
Sig	W. F. Pendell	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5002	11 October 1945
LSgt	W. Blythe	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in North West Europe	5007	11 October 1945
Cpl	J. Duguid	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5007	11 October 1945
Sig	A. Stephen	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5007	11 October 1945
Dvr	D. Reekie	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5007	11 October 1945
LSgt	G. A. Hanson	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5098	18 October 1945
LSgt	J. B. G. C. Todd	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Italy	5101	18 October 1945
Sig	A. H. Clarke	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5212	25 October 1945
Sig	R. J. King	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	5212	25 October 1945
Cpl	W. F. Jennings	MM	Distinguished Services in Italy	6078	13 December 1945
Cpl	R. C. Swingler	MM	Distinguished Services in Italy	6078	13 December 1945
Sig	H. Darbyshire	MM	Distinguished Services in Italy	6078	13 December 1945
Cpl	G. R. T. Dickinson	BEM	Gallant Conduct in carrying out Hazardous work in a Very Brave Manner	686	2 February 1945
Cpl	C. N. Mathews	BEM	Gallant Conduct in carrying out Hazardous work	1543	23 March 1945
Sig	P. A. Clayton	BEM	Gallant Conduct in carrying out Hazardous Work in a Very Brave Manner	4273	24 August 1945
Sig	E. W. Davis	BEM	Gallant Conduct in carrying out Hazardous Work in a Very Brave Manner	4273	24 August 1945
LCpl	T. R. King	BEM	Gallant Conduct in carrying out Hazardous Work in a Very Brave Manner	4273	24 August 1945

1946

AMaj Gen	W. A. Dimoline CBE, MC	DSO	Gallant and Distinguished Services in Burma	498	17 January 1946
Lt Col	P. E. M. Bradley	DSO	North West Europe	635	24 January 1946
TMaj	P. H. Skelton	MC	North West Europe	638	24 January 1946
TMaj	S. A. Hobart	MC	North West Europe	638	24 January 1946
TCapt	L. Joughin	MC	North West Europe	638	24 January 1946
TCapt	R. Patterson	MC	North West Europe	638	24 January 1946
TCapt	L. A. Phillips	MC	North West Europe	638	24 January 1946
Lt	B. E. W. Evershed	MC	North West Europe	638	24 January 1946
Lt	R. G. Armstrong	MC	Distinguished Services in the Field	1170	28 February 1946
Lt	G. F. Oldham	MC	Distinguished Services in the Field	1835	11 April 1946
TCapt	D. W. Young	MC	Burma	2737	6 June 1946
TCapt	G. Young	MC	Burma	2737	6 June 1946
Lt	A. J. Deane-Drummond MC	Bar to MC	Distinguished Services in the Field	3115	20 June 1946
Cpl	C. Mc F. Buchan	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Burma	500	17 January 1946
LCpl	R. G. Hunter	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Burma	500	17 January 1946
LCpl	H. C. Roberts	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in Burma	500	17 January 1946
Sgt	A. Fraser	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946

Sgt	J. Urquhart	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
LSgt	A. Clyde	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Cpl	H. A. Handley	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Cpl	R. E. Harvey	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Cpl	J. S. Hehir	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Cpl	D. C. Hepton	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Cpl	C. E. Horle	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Cpl	A. J. Love	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Cpl	W. J. Parker	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Cpl	R. V. T. Youens	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
LCpl	A. Goldring	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
LCpl	H. A. Oudot	MM	North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Sig	K. Alliston	MM	North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Sig	F. B. Dilworth	MM	North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Sig	J. Rimmer	MM	North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Sig	F. Rowe	MM	North West Europe	643	24 January 1946
Sgt	R. H. Everson	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	750	31 January 1946
Sig	L. E. Campling	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	750	31 January 1946
LSgt	F. I. H. Lane	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1051	21 February 1946
Sgt	C. Coates	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	1170	28 February 1946
Sgt	C. A. Page	MM	Hong Kong in 1941	1672	4 April 1946
Cpl	J. B. Stott	MM	Hong Kong in 1941	1672	4 April 1946
Sig	T. Oliver	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in the Field	1950	18 April 1946
ASgt	T. E. Handley	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service whilst POW	1951	18 April 1946
ASgt	F. Goodhall	MM	Burma	2739	6 June 1946
Sig	J. Bremner	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service in the Field	3115	20 June 1946
CQMS	W. D. Taylor	MM	Malaya 1942	3919	1 August 1946
Cpl	A. B. Rooks	BEM	Gallant Conduct in carrying out Hazardous work in a Very Brave Manner	3057	18 June 1946

1947

Sig	J. Cross	DCM	Distinguished Service in the Field prior to September 1945	4516	25 September 1947
Sig	D. Morter	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field prior to September 1945	4516	25 September 1947
Sig	F. A. Wagstaff	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field prior to September 1945	4516	25 September 1947

1949

Sgt	E. Wright	MM	Distinguished Services in the Field prior to 1945	1373	18 March 1949

1953

Sgt	T. Stephenson	BEM	Gallantry during East Coast Floods		28 April 1953

1959

Lt Col	A. J. Deane-Drummond MC	DSO	Oman	5353	25 August 1959

1965

LCpl	M. Baker	MM	Radfan Area of Southern Arabia	4348	4 May 1965

1976

Sgt	M. K. Townsend	DCM	Oman	46919	12 June 1976

1978

WO1	D. J. Tunmore	QGM	Northern Ireland	47643	18 September 1978

1980

ACpl	G. R. Burrows	QGM	Northern Ireland	9374	1 July 1980

1981

ASSgt	A. Mc G. Wells	MM	Northern Ireland	8086	15 June 1981
WO1	J. T. Nichols	QGM	Northern Ireland	8085	15 June 1981
Cpl	S. A. Clarke	QGM	Northern Ireland	15923	14 December 1981

1982

Sgt	T. G. Mather	MM	Falkland Islands Campaign	12851	8 October 1982
Cpl	T. Brookes	MM	Falkland Islands Campaign	12851	8 October 1982

1984

Sgt	W. Miller	QGM	Northern Ireland	5589	16 April 1984
Sgt	S. A. Clarke	Bar to QGM	Northern Ireland	13961	16 October 1984

1986

Cpl	B. J. Tough	QGM	Northern Ireland	239	7 January 1986

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14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

OPEN DAY

After months of preparation by a hard working team led by **Maj Eddie Kellett** and weeks of glorious weather, 11 June arrived and with it the Regimental Open Day and, unfortunately, so too did the rain! Despite the bad weather, the day was extremely successful and record amounts of money were received for donation to various British and German charities.

The Open Day was full of fun. Most 'personalities' from the Regiment 'volunteered' for a turn in the stocks where a liquidised grey mass, containing the past week's leftovers from the cookhouse was sold—three platesful for DM1—and thrown at the unfortunate few! It seemed to follow then that these people were next on the ducking stool, where friends and enemies alike took great delight in paying their money and making the victims both wet and freezing cold. There were many activities for the children to enjoy and the Castle Maze, Noddy Train and Death Slide proved very popular.

The CO takes revenge on his Adjutant Capt Alan Madsen

The 'Sultan of 3 Sqn'—OC Maj Lance Byrne re-takes his seat

Apart from the fun events there were numerous charity stalls. The Wives' Club Cake Stall made a fantastic amount of money; so, too, did the SSAFA Raffle, the profits from which will be put towards buying a TV and video for the waiting room in the Medical Centre where educational health films will be shown.

In addition to those Regimental celebrities who appeared, we were fortunate to have **Dave Beasant**, the former Wimbledon goalkeeper and Captain, as a guest. He signed autographs, posed for snapshots and helped in our 'Beat the Goalie' competition. We would like to thank **Dave** for his help, wish him well at his new club and hope he'll visit us again.

During the afternoon, several displays took place in the central arena, including the RAF Gutersloh Police Dog Display Team. The display impressed us all and we would like to thank the team for coming. The St John's Ambulance Display Team gave an interesting and informative presentation. To end the day we were lucky enough to have the fine band of the 2nd Bn The Royal Anglian Regt to treat us to a variety-filled concert. They ended the day by performing the Beating Retreat Ceremony. The CO, 14 Sig Regt **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe MBE** took the salute and was joined by the Oberstadtdirektor and Oberburgermeister of Celle for this occasion.

Throughout the day the BFBS Outside Broadcast Radio Show was on hand and **Cari Roberts** our local BFBS representative injected a series of live interviews into the lunchtime show which gave a few members of the Regiment a taste of stardom!

We hope all who came enjoyed our Open Day and we wait now while **Capt Brian Dearman**, our PRI, performs the difficult task of 'totting up'—estimates are that our clear profit may be many thousands of DMs!

Our thanks to all who helped make this such a successful and enjoyable day—we now look forward to a similar day next year and hope the weather might be kinder to us.

RHQ TROOP

PERSONALITIES	
Adjt	**Capt Alan Madsen**
AAdjt	**Lt Tracey Bowers**
ORQMS	**WO2 Chris Bell**
ORS	**Sgt Brian Durlik**
Clerks	**Cpl Paul Storrs**
	Cpl Steve Griffiths
	Cpl Simon Windus
	LCpl Keith Townsin
	LCpl Calum Anderson
	LCpl Mick Smith
	Sig William Berkery
	Sig Jason Ward
Post NCO	**Cpl Mark Gibson**
Typists	**Mrs Les Foster**
	Miss Sue Pidgeon
YTS Trainee	**Miss Debbie Sefton**

BARBECUE

On Saturday 25 June **Cpl Paul Storrs**, Troop 'Treasurer', dug deep into the pfennig jar called troop funds and arranged a barbecue. The night started well with everyone caught on film as they arrived, that is everyone bar the Chief Clerk, **Chris Bell**, who was wearing a different jumper. Someone must have told the Adjutant's wife, **Sue**, that it was bring-a-bottle as she came with a glass of wine!

The night was a great success with many thanks to the cook for the excellent food and to **Cpl Storrs** for the organisation; also to **Sig Jason Ward** for the hard work he put in cleaning and tidying up afterwards.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We say 'welcome' to newly promoted **LCpls Calum Anderson** and **Mick Smith** and also to **Sig William Berkery**.

We say 'goodbye' to **Sig Willescroft** and all the best in the big, wide world to **Debbie Sefton**, our YTS trainee. Cheers for all the NAAFI breaks!

Congratulations go to **Cpl Simon Windus** on his promotion to Sergeant and posting to HQ NORTHAG and to **Sgt Brian Durlik** on passing his RSSSC with flying colours.

HQ SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Eddie Kellett**
2IC	**Capt Brian Dearman**
SSM	**WO2 Tony Lunney**
SQMS	**SSgt Derek Witchell**
PRI	**Sgt Joe Hodgson**

ARRIVALS

We say hello to **WO2 (SSM) Tony Lunney** and **Sue. Tony** had a big move from QM Tech Dept as the RQ to become HQ Sqn SSM. Did his pen run out of ink or was this because of the pace stick he demanded? Will we now hear the saying 'Gone fishing' from SHQ Tp?

DEPARTURES

We congratulate **WO2 (SSM) Bob McKenzie** on his promotion to WO1 RSM and say a fond farewell to him, **Marie** and family. We hope they enjoy London.

MT TROOP

MTWO	**WO2 Rod Pylee**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Keith Talbot**
MT POL/BFG Sgt	**Sgt Phil Sales**

At long last we have a few new arrivals. Therefore we welcome with open arms **LCpl Pete Casson, LCpl Jimmy Marshall** and **LCpl Darren Haynes** and family.

OTHER MEMBERS

Still orienteering and usually found in the servicing bay is **Cpl Dave Baillie**, while **Cpl 'Brummie' Little** steers the details desk; will he or the MTWO crack up first? **Cpl 'Stew' Steward** has taken over the stores; are the dues out 1988 or 1989? We have lost **Sig 'Baz' Carmichael** to Sardinia. We welcome back **Sig Gary Parkes** from his B1 course. Will he get married this year? Will **Sig 'Woody' Wooding** learn to play his guitar before he reaches 21 Sig Regt? We congratulate **LCpl Andy Matthews** and **Jeanette** on the arrival of their baby daughter, **Rebecca**.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
FIELD STATION LANGELEBEN

Field Station Langeleben continues it's run of successes in local and not so local shooting competitions. Having won the General's Cup from the Alpini, it was presented over a typical English tea in June, a worthy second place in a large international field at Hesborn in the Hochsanerland was achieved on 11 June.

Currently we are hosts to a large number of US Air Force members and will host our Danish allies next.

Presentation of the Alpini 'General's Cup' *(L-R)* Mr Massei, SSgt Ted Roberts, WO1 Neil Mapp, Maj Mario De Col and SSgt Pete Rixon

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Hudson**
2IC	**Capt Lugg**
SSM	**WO2 Metcalfe**
YofS	**SSgt Little**
SQMS	**SSgt Taylor**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Hall**

Firstly, welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Metcalfe, LCpl Haynes, Sig Norton** and **Warren**. We hope they enjoy their tour. We have come to the end of an era, in that **WO2 (SSM) Tomlinson** has left to take over as SSM at 201 Sig Sqn. We wish him and his family all the best in their new posting.

EXERCISE SUMMER SALES 88

Ex Summer Sales saw SHQ Tp deploying to the Springe area for the SSM's last exercise. So the message was 'Make it a good one for him'. The Yeoman and **Sig 'Taff' Greenway** set up what was to be home for the next week in the radio/plans vehicles, where rumours started circulating that they'd only done one shift during the whole exercise. With live enemy on the ground, the SQMS **SSgt Dave Taylor** and the MT Sgt **Sgt Duncan Hall** decided to lay out a few surprises should anyone decide to gatecrash the location. The only visitors we did get were about 40 school children with torches. The SSM, having been disturbed from his slumber, diplomatically asked them to leave. So much compassion in only one person! The POL truck managed to become u/s in the hands of **Cpl Sammy James** and **LCpl Ian Proctor** who kindly deposited the dead truck at Ech then sneaked off with a turbo replacement. All that we heard from their tent after that was 'C'mon **Sammy**, let's go for another cabby'. The final words came from two stars of SHQ Tp, in the form of **Cpl 'Caveman' Joyce** whilst trying to catch a mouse with a rather large club—'I only meant to stun it, honest!' and from **Sig 'Cyclops' Norton** 'I'll get some fags later **Taff** when I get up'.

EXERCISE WANDERING SILVER
ONE SQUADRON CHALLENGE PURSUIT CAMP

Ex Wandering Silver was an exercise held in the Harz mountains. Activities included abseiling, top roping, canoeing, windsurfing and hill walking (there was also a spot of bird watching at the local swimming pool).

The activities were split into three parts: Top roping and abseiling with **Cpl 'Scouse' Traynor** (reluctantly dragged from battlecamp to instruct!) and **SSgt 'Tam' Malley**. Canoeing and windsurfing with **LCpl Dean Clifford** and **Cpl Tim Abbott**. Hill walking with **Cpl Phil Ashworth**.

We were split into three groups each consisting of six or seven men who were rotated daily between the various activities, with the OC **Ian Lawrence** moving between sun lounger and deck chair, ensuring that everything was running smoothly, and surprisingly it did!

Luckily the weather was generally good and the admin NCOs, **Sgts Allen** and **Cape** ran a good campsite. Every evening a camp fire was lit, where those who hadn't gone into the local towns sat and swapped stories about the days events.

On the Thursday evening an excellent barbecue was laid on by our 'slop jockey' **Pte Wayne Christian** (who is leaving the ACC to cook the books in the RAPC). We were joined by **WO2 'Jock' Douglas** who brought his family with him and they dined on grilled trout.

Friday saw a return to reality (and Celle) after a slight delay for the toboggan run at St Andreasburg. An enjoyable week was had by all, albeit a tiring one; a case of work hard, play hard only marred by those doing water sports swallowing too much of the Odersee whilst canoeing.

BATTLECAMP AT VOGELSANG

Once again we were lucky to get a two week session at Vogelsang to conduct mandatory military training and fire our support weapons. With two one week sessions coach loads of unsuspecting soldiers arrived each Friday to enjoy themselves. On arrival it was raining and Vogelsang soon became a mudbath. We were met by the RQMS **WO2 Thompson** and a motley crew of **SSgt Tam Malley, SSgt Dyson, Sgt Mary Dawson, Lt Lawrence** and **SSM Logan** and the RQ's pet spider Rollo. The first morning started like all mornings at silly O'clock with **Cpl Andy Forbes** and **LCpl Graham** taking us for short runs and warm up exercises. The DS had us doing drills on all weapons including the SA80 which proved a pleasure to fire. They even gave us the dubious pleasure of trying the new NBC centre with its' larger gas chamber and Belgian videos. No translation was needed for the latter as the practical demonstrations were self explanatory.

The cooks, bless their hearts, had a real job to feed us on compo and learnt 15 different ways of serving corned beef. During week two we understand they had fresh lucky devils!

At the grenade range fast bowler **Cpl 'Brummie' Little** managed to hit the wicket from a distance of 4ft earning the DS a beer or two.

Another mishap included **Sig John Wooding** who managed to graft his skin onto the hot barrel of a GPMG and **LCpl Bob Page** who fell landing on his head. This dramtically improved his shooting, caused no damage to his new helmet but the brain . . . **SSgt 'Mad Dog' Dyson** gave us further injuries with the 84mm training. Cries of 'tank action' had us crawling forward with the beast to a firing position and **LCpl Shann Arundel** and **LCpl Simon Luck** both needed elbow and knee transplants.

During the Navigation exercise a 3 Sqn Section under **Cpl John Moore** decided to lose his team and take twice the normal time to finish. The 2IC was in despair.

The Regimental 'Smokers' were a great success with light hearted fun being poked at all DS but mostly at **Sgt Pete Dawson** our beloved stickies seller, **Sgt Stringer** and **SSgt 'Mad Dog' Dyson**. Even the inseparable 2 Sqn Officers **Lts Nigel Dakin** and **Mark Whyte** had their legs pulled.

Recognition training was once again pulled out as an activity and run by **SSgt 'Doc' Holliday. Cpl Foster** of 3 Sqn was heard saying 'T62, T64, BMP . . .', pity the stand was full of NATO armour. Do not despair **Doc** most of us got the message.

Molotov Cocktail training, another Mad Dog activity was misunderstood by **LCpl Nikki Lord** who decided to keep a hold of his cocktail, maybe he thought it was for consumption.

All in all the training was fun, the weather fairly good and an interesting and useful week had by all.

STOP NOTE

We said goodbye in August to **RSM Watson** and his wife **Jane**. He goes on commissioning to 21 Sig Regt and we wish them all the best for the future. We say hullo to **RSM Aitken** and hope all will go well!

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

THE END OF AN ERA

On Thursday 9 June a radio link was established between Krefeld and Leicester. It is the last time that 16 Sig Regt will be able to provide this as they hand back the equipment on re-equipping with the new Ptarmigan communication system. Alpha Tp provided the communications with the same vehicle that was used to help with communications at the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster. To commemorate the occasion the Ober Burgermeister of Krefeld spoke to the Mayor of Leicester, its twinned city. The Burgermeister invited the Mayor to attend 16 Sig Regt Freedom of the City Parade which will be held later in the year.

Lt Col D. J. Lowe, Ober Bürgermeister and Dieter Pützhofen

CORPS BAOR ANNUAL HANDICAP GOLF CHALLENGE CUP

Lt Col D. J. Lowe CO 16 Sig Regt presenting **Cpl Murray** with winners trophy. The event was held at RAF Bruggen on 29 April, Royal Signals Spring Meeting.

Lt Col D. J. Lowe and Cpl Murrey

WHITE WATER RACING

Maj Paul King/Cpl Shane Wright/LCpl Andy Dobson—BAOR Team league leaders after three races. **Cpl Shane Wright** is presently the second placed Army paddler in the BAOR league. **Cpl Melanie O'Brien** is the top placed lady paddler in BAOR.

The team has recently said goodbye to one of its most stalwart members **Cpl Shane Wright**. He has gone to Berlin and has promised to give up paddling and spend some time with his wife—at least until the next race. We look forward to the arrival of **SSgt Ian Dobson** (no relation to **Andy**!) to bolster our team fresh from his Foreman's course. With the rest of the White Water events to follow and the Surf Championships in October there is plenty of competitive canoeing to look forward to, and hopefully some more successes. Whilst new talent is constantly coming forward from within the Regiment we would welcome any keen canoeists contemplating their next posting to ask for 16 Sig Regt.

MALLERSTANG YOMP (26 MILES)

The event was on 5 June and is run by the Rotary Club of Upper Eden for charity. The team consisted of **Cpl Crinnion, Sig Jones** and **Stokes** who once again won the Warcop Cup for the Regiment. Last year it was won by J Troop for the fastest aggregate time by a team of three.

L to R: Cpl Crinnion, Lt Col D. J. Lowe, Sig Stokes and Jones

REGIMENTAL CANOEING

The Team finished last season as BAOR and Army White Water Champions, so began 1988 with a reputation to live up to. With more than half the season now completed, this year looks like being just as successful, if not more so. The following results in the various canoeing disciplines have been achieved so far.

SLALOM

Maj Paul King/Cpl Shane Wright/LCpl Andy Dobson—BAOR Open Team Champions Army Open Team Runners-up. **LCpl Andy Dobson**—BAOR Individual K1 Champion and placed third in the Army. **Cpl Shane Wright/Sig Paul Haigh**—BAOR C2 Champions.

SPRINT AND MARATHON

BAOR Team Winners
R Signals Runners-Up

LCpl Andy Dobson—BAOR Open K1 Marathon Winner and R Signals Spring Champion. **WPte Angie Tilley**—BAOR Ladies Spring Champion.

The Sprint and Marathon Team
Back Row L to R: LCpls Hussey, Dobson, Sig Norfolk and Haigh
Front Row L to R: WPte Tilley and LCpl Byrnes

JULIET TROOP

The troop says farewell to a number of people. **Capt Eric Heritage** departs for 204 Sig Sqn—not much chance of lots of adventurous training in a Brigade! Also moving on are **LCpl Stanley-Jones**, who goes to NI on promotion(!), and **WLCpl Heather Hunter**, who travels up country to 4 Sqn. Arrivals include the new Tp OC otherwise known as **2Lt Alison Gordon** and **LCpl Byrne**. Apart from the various exercises, highlight of the period was the troop party games night at which most ended up either soaked with water or covered in flour.

WELSH 1,000

On Saturday 4 June a team from the Regiment comprising **Cpl Cowan, Cpl Crinnion** and **Sig Ternbank** came 19th out of 58 service teams in the Welsh 1,000—a gruelling race over 25 miles of mountainous countryside in Snowdonia. Due to limited team numbers **Capt Heritage** had to compete for the Metropolitan Police A Team. A total squad of six plus **SSgt Chris Parry-Davies** as Admin SNCO had spent a week at Capel Curig Training Camp training for the event. During the week the team climbed Snowdon three times and also discovered the delights of Tryfan, Glyder Fach and Glyder Fawr. Volunteers for the event should contact **Cpl Cowan**, R Troop!

The Welsh 1,000 Squad on top of Snowdon
Rear (L-R): Sig Johnson, Cpl Keen and Capt Heritage
Middle (L-R): Cpls Cowan and Crinnion
Front: Sig Fernbank

BOARDSAILING

The 1988 Boardsailing season opened with the R Signals NW Europe Championships at Lee-on-Solent from 20-24 June 1988. 16 Sig Regt fielded three teams of Boardsailors. The result was 16 Sig Regt A Team first, 16 Sig Regt B Team runners-up. Individual trophies were too numerous to mention. The teams went on to the RCZ Championships at Roermond on 7/8 July 1988. Once again the A Team came first and individual medals abounded.

18-20 July 1988 saw the BFG Championships at Dummersee. Once again 15 Sig Regt A Team were victorious. This was followed by the R Signals BAOR Championships on 21/22 July 1988. Thanks to the efforts of the Regiment's B Team the A Team were able to win yet again.

The collective team name for the Regiment's Boardsailors is Team Pirhana and it is managed by **Capt Phil Daisey** R Signals. The team at present consist of: **Sgt Dougie Maher, Cpls Steve Dickson, Richie Cave, 'Geordie' English, LCpls 'Nobby' Hall, Keith Taylor, Kenny Butler** and last but not least **Sig Richie Townsend**.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paul King (and Henry)**
2IC	**Capt Mike Nevill**
SSM	**WO2 Rick Lewis**
FofS	**WO2 Ian Atherton**
YofS	**SSgt Ian Lake**
SQMS	**SSgt John Allen**
MT Sgt	**Sgt George Young**
Clerk	**Cpl 'Trooper' Vince Smith**

Congratulations go to **Maj Paul King** on his selection for Staff College in January 1989 and to the FofS on his promotion to WO2 (now he doesn't have to go on RSM's parade).

The SSM reckons he should write to the Guinness Book of Records as the Squadron will have its fifth Squadron Commander during his current tour, when **Maj King** is replaced!

R TROOP
Report by Sgt T. Davies

PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt A. J. Clewlow**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt M. Wilton**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt A. Singleton**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt T. W. Davies**
RR Sgt	**Sgt S. Hill**

R Troop July 1988

EXERCISE LIBERTY BACKSTOP
ADVENTURE PURSUIT CAMP
Report by SSgt Rick Cooper

This year 2 Sqn's Adventure Pursuit Camp was held in late May and early June in the area around Oberstdorf in the Allgäu. While the rest of the Squadron was busy exercising in the Sauerland, **Capt Mike Nevill, SSgt Mick Wilton** and instructors **Cpl Nick Bell, Steve Dickson, Shane Wright** and **Mo Lyons** were busy collecting adventure training stores and moving them down to Oberstdorf in preparation for the arrival of those hungry for adventure.

To major differences from previous camps occured this time: firstly, student's chose one activity for a five day period thus allowing them to become proficient in it; and secondly instead of a tented camp the Squadron was accommodated in the 1 Staffords Ski Lodge.

Both weeks took a similar format with the mountaineers disappearing into the landscape for a four day expedition, **Cpl Mo Lyons** climbers began on a nearby rock face before progressing up to mountain-top ladder routes by the end of the week, and the Alpsee became the initial home of both the windsurfers and canoeists.

Although the water was cold the conditions were generally good for the windsurfers, in week two there was a couple of days with little wind. **LCpl 'Nobby' Hall** and **Sig Steve Garth** spent a lot of time learning to climb back onto their boards, but **Cpl Karen Tindall** managed to stay dry by sunbathing a lot! **Lt Alison Gordon** had a birthday she'll never forget—most of it in the lake!

The canoeists followed two days learning basic skills on the Alpsee by two days introduction to white and cold water on the River Iller, twice canoeing a 14km stretch between Oberstdorf and Sonthofen.

Their fifth and final day was spent at the Olympic Slalom Course at Augsburg, a two and a half hour drive away from our base. Despite the fact that few of the students had been in a canoe before several managed to stay upright! There were no shortage of war stories to follow and **Cpl Clive Garratt** claims it was the fastest 800m breast stroke he had ever done.

LCpl Julie Williams came top of the climbers 'Goalkeeping league' for stopping most of the rocks people displaced. Despite a few bruises and cuts she complained very little.

The evenings were generally spent socialising in this beautiful and extremely friendly part of Germany.

Roll on next year!

The troop recently bade a sad farewell to its longest serving member **LCpl 'Taff' Evans**. We would like to thank **'Taff'** for a great night and wish him and **Zita** all the best in 211 (cheers for the bath **Taff!**).

Other farewells soon to be upon us are to **SSgt Mick 'Gunni' Wilton, Cpl Dougie Piper, Cpl 'Taff' Donovan, Cpl Eddie Williams** and **LCpl Gaz Tuff**, who I am sure will be sent off in the traditional style of the Troop.

On a happier note, the Troop extends a warm welcome to its new Driver Wing **Cpl 'Skip' Skivington, Sig Paul Beeching** and everyone's favourite **Sig 'Dud' Fraser**.

CONGRATULATIONS

LCpl Thompson and **LCpl 'Brummie' Perks** who join the pad on 6 August and 13 August respectively. The Troop extends best wishes to both **Linda** and **Liza**, as we know what these lads are really like!

KILO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt J. S. Field**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt S. Thompson**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt P. W. J. Staynings**
RR Sgt	**Sgt D. Burgess**
DTg Sgt	**Sgt C. R. Wilkinson**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt R. J. Cousins**

The fast turnover rate continues with the troop saying goodbye to Sgt **Martin** and **LCpl Alison**. Others leaving shortly include **SSgt Thompson, Cpl Dave Coleman, Cpl Whittaker, LCpl 'Scouse' Hamilton, Sig 'Taff' Davies** and **Sig 'Brummie' Stokes**.

To the troop members left, congratulations to the following on their recent promotions: **Cpl 'Ollie' Lambert, LCpl Dave Goffin** and **Sgt Ritchie Cousins**.

The opportunity is taken to congratulate **Cpl 'Taff' Roberts** on his engagement and will be getting married next year. We look forward to our wedding invitations!

One rumour that has been successfully squashed is concerning **Cpl Beardmore**. He was caught out telling porky pies about his pending birthday and will therefore experience an unplanned swim in the Regimental pool.

4 SQUADRON

Over the past six months, 4 Squadron has once again experienced a very high turnover of staff at all levels. **Lt Janette Deans** finally managed to get away from Exchange Tp. We welcome **Lt Sharon Walker** in her place and hope that she turns out to be as good a Switchboard Operator as her predecessor. We are also pleased to have **SSgt Plant** in the Squadron who arrived as the 'advance party' for EST (BAOR). The team is now administered by 4 Squadron and we look forward to the arrival of the rest of the team (the SSM is keeping the Squadron Duty Officer roster open in the wild hope that she can catch some of these SNCOs for a duty or two).

The Squadron has done very well for promotions recently. **Cpl Collins, Cooke, Crowther, Denton** and **Webb** are congratulated on reaching full Corporal and **LCpls Bettany, Docherty, Green, Mackie, Naylor, Percival, Perkins, Townsend** and **Wilkinson** are congratulated on gaining their first tape. Maybe this proves that you are not forgotten if you work in one of the Squadron's 'up country' detachments. We also congratulate **Cpl Raven** (yes, just who is this man?) on promotion to Sergeant and hope to see him back in the Squadron soon following his Potential Yeoman's Course.

A change of rank is not too difficult to remember but it does get confusing when people start changing their names. The Summer has brought with it a host of weddings. We wish **LCpls Green** and **Percival** and **Ptes Matthews, Montgomery** and **Millett** the very best on their wedding day and hope it doesn't take us too long to start calling them by their married names.

The Squadron has also made some impression on the sports field. **LCpl Perkins** was awarded her Army colours for squash in April and **Sgt Swinton** gained his BAOR angling colours in June. The MT maintained their excellent reputation for horse riding thanks to **Cpl Hayward** and **Pte Watson** winning yet more awards as members of the Bielefeld Saddle Club. The Squadron has continued to show spirit and enthusiasm in the Ripon Barracks Coe Cup Sports Competition. The OC, **Maj Rayner**, recently collected the winners shield on behalf of his team for the 9mm shooting, modestly claiming it was no thanks to him, but we don't believe it. The SSM, **WO2 Lawrence** managed somehow to cajole **SSgt Letford, LCpls James, Mackie** and **Pte Watson** into running the 35km Hermanslauf with her in April. They did very well as a team and also managed to raise money for a disabled ex-member of the ATS.

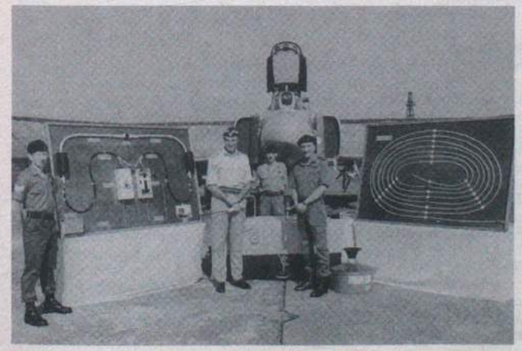
LCpl Mackie went on to bring further credit upon herself by completing her Duke of Edinburgh's gold award which she began while still at school. She received the award in June at Holyrood House, Edinburgh from **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**. In order to gain the award **LCpl Mackie** had volunteered for community service in a nursery school, attended lectures on police work in Stirling and mounted an expedition to follow the trail of the Glencoe Massacre to name but a few activities. What's next **LCpl Mackie**?

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

VISIT OF GEN SIR BRIAN KENNY KCB CBE CINC BAOR TO THE REGIMENT

On 4 August the Regiment was visited by the CinC **Gen Sir Brian Kenny KCB CBE** who, during his visit, saw a display by K Troop and H Troop of 3 Sqn.

After being met by the Squadron Commander **Maj Bob Bates** and the SSM **WO2 Terry Hughes**, the CinC saw a BDR (Battle Damage Repair) display by K Troop.



After the CinC saw a blown fibre optic display given by H Troop. The photographs show **Sgt 'Pip' Piper** indicating and explaining the intricate workings of blowing fibre. The second photograph shows the H Troop Blown Fibre display team posing with the CinC after the completion of 3 Squadron's display, left to right: **Sgt 'Pip' Piper, CinC Gen Sir Brian Kenny KCB CBE, Cpl Dix** and **Capt Keith Russell**.

2 SQUADRON
F TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**SSgt Alex Hamilton**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Alex Hamilton**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Owen Evans**
	Sgt John Fradley
	Sgt Pete Madeloso
	Sgt Steve McIntyre
Tp Stores	**Cpl Dave Phillpott**
	Cpl Mick Rose

The Troop has had a busy month with most people away on Ex High Pass, and then Ex Signal Star, leaving only **SSgt Alex Hamilton** and a few of the linies behind to sort out the new Ptarmigan compound and the Binner.

STOP PRESS

The atheletes of the troop namely **LCpl Al Freeman, Sig John Powell** and **Garth Dale** are still in training for the Army Cup and have not found their way back to work yet.

The Windsurfers of the troop **Sgt John Fradley** and **Cpl Trev Allen** and **Sam** are set to take the RCZ/BAOR by storm when their new Mistral UDS boards arrive complete with Demon Sails (Look out 16 Sig Regt).

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Terry Hague** and his wife **Sharon** on the birth of their son, and **Sig Scott Landells** and his wife **Kate** on the birth of their Daughter. And to **Cpl Geordie English** on his promotion and his escape to 16 Sig Regt.

E TROOP

The past few months have seen several changes within E Troop, here's the list of coming and goings. Goodbye to: **Sgt Steve Cleary** off to 200 Sig Sqn as a SSgt, **Cpl Pete Longworth** off to 22 Sig Regt, **Ian Hay** also 22 Sig Regt, **Sig Frank Whitelegge** off to 1 Inf Bde for six months before a more permanent posting, **Sig Matt Wakeling** moves next door to F Troop.

The last month has produced an influx of new arrivals mostly ROP's, well SCRA(T) OP's really, they are: **Cpls Jeff Hodgeson, Steve** (newly promoted) **Dixon, LCpls 'Smudge' Smith, Chas Fisher, Sig Paul Canning, 'Taff' Waite, Chris Davis-Morris, 'Scouse' Davies**. Other new members include, **Cpl's 'Scouse' Vicary, Kev Jarvis, LCpl Steve Lindsay**, and finally two brand new ROP's straight from the factory **Sig 'Woody' Wood** and **'Arthur' Scargill**. The Troop extends a warm welcome to them and their families.

E Troop has had a very busy few months with Ex High Pass for all the SAN's and SCRA(T)'s this was followed closely (well, a day later), by Summer Sales which took two SAN's, the third SAN deployed with 4 Sqn on a Heli support exercise. Not to be outdone, the SCRA(T)'s, (God bless their little whips), deployed on Ex Signal Star. Meanwhile back in the Hangar, **Cpl Nick Middleton**, with just a rusty saw and a two inch paint brush, completely rebuilt and painted the Radio shack, it looks good but now resembles something out of the Kremlin, (where did he get all that red paint from?).

The Troop is now looking forward to going on a small camping holiday in the Bergen-Hohne Trg area on another action packed Harrier Force Exercise.

3 SQUADRON

The SHQ element has seen a number of changes in personalities recently with the posting in of the new **SQMS Des Faherty** viced **Martin Richards** and **Cpl Paul Rogers**. A warm welcome is extended to both new SHQ members and their respective wives **Dawn** and **Janet**.

The SHQ personalities are:-

OC	**Maj Bob Bates**
SSM	**WO2 Terry Hughes**
SQMS	**SSgt Des Faherty**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Pete Searle**
Tech Stmn	**Cpl Paul Rogers**
Sqn Clerk	**Sig Mick Mulcaire**
MT NCO	**LCpl Geordie Hughes**

Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Terry Hughes** and **WO2 (FofS) Bruce Wyllie** on their selection to WO1 on the recent promotion board; **WO2 (FofS) Wyllie** is at present sunning himself in Gibraltar.

GOLF TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC Troop	**Capt (TOT) Pete Shawyer**
NCO I/C 3rd Line	**Ssgt Jim Graley**
NCO I/C Roetgen Det	**SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullan**
NCO I/C Starrnet Control	**SSgt Duncan Forteath**
NCO I/C RAF(G) Systems	**SSgt Steve Young**

TROOP GOSSIP

The annual 3rd Line barbecue was held on Saturday 30 April to bring Golf Tp together for the first time this year. A gathering of such a widely dispersed troop brought about the usual conversations 'so you're the Charley that keeps ringing me up' and 'what do you mean who am I? I've been here two years'.

A mixture of glorious sunshine, beer for the boys and a Pimms punch for the ladies combined to make the ideal setting for a great day. During the afternoon 3rd Line and guests firmly put paid to the myth that Roetgen had the best volleyball team, and **Sgt Kev Dyer** deserves a medal for daring to turn up in that pair of shorts.

The gathering was also to say farewell to **SSgt Bruce Casburn** and his wife **Carol. Bruce**, after 22 years with the Corps, is now moving to Soest to take up a position as a service fund accountant. Although he has now rebadged to RAPC we still wish him well in his new career.

Sporting success is next on the agenda with Golf Tp appropriately winning the 3 Sqn Inter-Troop Golf competition. The team members with stableford scores were **SSgt Ron Bragg** (55), **Capt Pete Shawyer** (46), **Sgt Kev Dyer** (39) and **SSgt Jim Graley** (11) for a winning total of 151. **SSgt Jim Graley** scored his 11 points after only a one week golfing career.

A happy note to finish—congratulations to **Sgt Nev Flintham** on his selection for promotion to Staff Sergeant during the coming year.

H TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Troop OC	**Capt K. E. Russell**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt S. Dobson**
Maint Sgt	**Sgt A Piper**
Project Sgt	**Sgt S. Brealey**
MT Cpl	**Sgt W. Stadius**
Troop Clerk	**Cpl S. Brown**
	Mrs S. Brough

ARRIVALS

Since our last report we welcome the following: **Sgt Steve Brealey**, wife **Sylvia** and family, **Cpl Billy McKeegan** who joined us from 28 Sig Regt, **Sig Dickinson** and **Giles** who recently arrived from 8 Sig Regt on their first posting and, last but not least, our reliable REME Mechanic **Cfn Shaw** and his wife **Jill**.

POSTINGS

We have also said a sad farewell recently to **Cpl Derek Carman** and family who leave for sunnier climes in Gibraltar. He will join **Cpl Bob Shotton** who departed recently. We also lose **Sig 'Benny' Bennett** and wish him luck in Civvy Street. **Sig Colin O'Brien** has left for Belize for six months and **Cfn 'Smudge' Smith** has gone back to the Regiment.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Sig Richie Gathercole** and **Steve Lewis** on their recent promotion to Lance Corporal.

GET WELL

On a sadder note our thoughts go out to **LCpl Steve Brice** who was taken ill, flown back to UK and is now being looked after in Woolwich Hospital. Our best wishes go out to him and we hope that he is now on the road to recovery. Anyone passing through Woolwich who knows **Steve** is invited to call and see him.

K TROOP
SQUADRON COMMANDERS CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 20 July the Squadron Officers got together for a squadron commander's conference. The hosts for this were K Troop at RAF Wildenrath. After a successful conference, the Officers were joined by SNCO's for some cultural enlightenment and to say farewell to a number of Squadron members. After a visit to Battle flight, for which we would like to thank **Flt Lts Gary Hewett** and **Paul Milnes** of 19 Sqn Battle flight, everyone took the transport to 13 Sig Regt at Birgelen. After an excellent lunch, farewell presentations were made to **Capt Bill White** (RSM's note the photo), **SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullen, Sgt 'Taff' Llewellyn** and **Sgt 'Edge' Sharpe**. We wish them all the very best for their respective futures. We must also say a big thank you to **SSgt Dick Taylor**, K Troop for organising such an excellent day.

K Troop would also like to say farewell to **LCpl Crawford** who is off to 14 Sig Regt, hello to **LCpl Bowers** who joins us from HQ Sqn, and finally congratulations to **Sgt** and **Mrs Davison** on the birth of their daughter **Michaela Jane**.

Visit to Battle Flight

4 SQUADRON
VISIT OF CINC BAOR

The Squadron has recently played an active part in the visit of the CinC BAOR on 4 August to the Regiment.

The call came from the RSM that 4 Sqn was to provide the Barrack Guard due, it was said, to the other Squadrons exercise commitments, but we prefer to think it was because he wanted the job done properly!

The Guard was formed and rehearsed under the watchful eyes of **SSgt Ray Patrickson** (fresh from his square bashing at Pirbright), and **SSgt (SQMS) Phil Clifford** (ex Harrogate instructor).

With only a couple of days to practise, the Guard worked hard and was rewarded on the day with an almost perfect (honest) performance, which earned the praise of the CinC who took time to speak, at length, to every member of the Guard.

The photograph shows the CinC talking to **Sig 'Taff' Jones**, with from L to R: ADC? . . . **WO1 (RSM) McBain, SSgt Patrickson, CinC Cpl Chris Middleton, Sig Jones** and **'Jock' Phee**. Not in picture, **LCpl Tony Downing, Sig Bernie Brown, Sean Fardy, Dave Monger, Jason Hawksworth** and **Mark Wyldes**.

The other photograph shows the CinC being met by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Whitemore**, with **WO1 (RSM) McBain** and **Sig Bernie Brown** in attendance.

The Squadron now looks forward to its next 'Public Duties' role in September when we will be representing the Regiment in the Allied Services Parade in Bonn. Just time for the barrack guard to grow their hair again (thanks Q!).

4 Sqn also provided a number of Communications stands for the CinC to visit, with detachments being provided by I and J Troops and also a MAOT Detachment that came all the way from Gutersloh for the day. The photograph shows the OC Squadron **Maj Gordon Trevis** meeting the CinC on his arrival at the stands with **WO2 (SSM) Brian Dalton** and **WO2 (YofS) Clive Copestake** in attendance.

In the same week the Squadron also had a brief visit from Commd RCZ, **Brig Palmer**, who during his tour of the Airfield Troops, called in on O Troop in Gutersloh commanded by **Sgt Jim Paine. Brig Palmer** was met by the OC Squadron and also the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Bob Lockwood**, who was wearing his other hat for the day as OC O Troop.

The Brigadier was shown a MAOT detachment tactically set up and given a brief description of its role by the Detachment commander **Cpl Steve Webb** and his crewman, **Sig Sanders**. He also had a brief discussion with OC MAOTS **Fl Lt Bob Bickers RAF**, who told the Brigadier how hard everyone worked on exercise. It's a hard life on MAOTS, so all you RTGs out there get your posting orders in now.

SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP—LANDKERN MOSEL

This year the Squadron had a combined Summer Camp down in the Mosel near Cochem at Camping Platz Landkern. A highly enjoyable two weeks was spent on the various activities which included canoeing, wind surfing and hill climbing/walking. The Camp was split into two identical phases so that each member of the Squadron had at least five days to participate in the activities.

CANOEING

Report by Sgt Dave Bunt

Each day started out at Cochem with a very quick swimming test due to the water temperature of the Mosel river, followed by an even quicker capsize drill, where **Cpl Steph Crouch WRAC** actually took on more fluid than the night before.

The rest of the day was spent canoeing down the Mosel towards Tries-Varden, playing various kinds of football, and building pyramids, which proved to be hard work for **Sig 'Paddy' Bickerstaff**, who wasn't quite sure which way up his canoe should go, and who also learned that you cannot breath underwater.

The two weeks was finished off by **Capt Bob Lockwood** wedging himself into a Canoe and making bigger waves than the barges going down the river.

Taking a well earned breather before setting off down the Mosel are; *from L to R:* Sgt Micky Walling ACC, Cpl Dick Tredwell, Sgt Carmen Tredwell WRAC (The Missus), Sgt Dave Bunt, Lt Adrian Broad and Cpl Chris Middleton

WINDSURFING

Report by SSgt Steve Buxton

The Windsurfing was a great success thanks to the instruction of **Cpl Steve Welding** with **Sgt John Fradley** and **Cpl Trev Allen** who were both poached from 2 Sqn for the duration of the camp (many thanks to 2 Sqn for that). All the lads received basic technique instruction, which was fine on the dry training, but turned out to be a different proposition on the water. The CO turned up for a days instruction and proved to be a very proficient windsurfer managing to stay dry for three circuits of the lake.

This activity proved to be a very popular one with the students despite the number of early baths taken.

HILL WALKING

Cpl Chris Middleton our intrepid Trekker had the lads backpacking 20km a day around the hills of Cochem, pointing out various landmarks and points of interest throughout the walk. All the lads looked suitably flogged on return to camp.

The remainder of the time on the camp was spent swimming in Cochem in the excellent swimming pool there, and also a boat trip up the Mosel to Bierstein where several local products were sampled. All in all an excellent summer camp was enjoyed by all who took part, with thanks especially to the Admin side of the camp led by the 2IC **Capt Bob Lockwood**, Admin SNCO **SSgt Steve Buxton** SQMS **Cpl Dick Tredwell**, and a big thank you to **Cpl (now Sgt) Micky Walling ACC** for excellent catering throughout the camp.!

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

Report by SSgt 'Geordie' Bincliffe

The Squadron wish to welcome the following who arrived recently: **Cpls Fellows, McDonald** and **Rogers, Sig Fardy** and **Fleming**. Have a nice tour. Bon Voyage to **SSgt Pete Grainger** on promotion to WO2 to 13 Sig Regt and **Sig 'Geordie' Milne** and **Frank Dike** to 1 Inf Bde and Civvy street respectively. Good Luck.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Capt Steve** and **Jane Richardson** on the birth of their son **Christopher**, and to **Sgt Chris** and **Jan Spencer** on the birth of their daughter **Nicola**.

TRAINING WING PERSONALITIES

Trg WO	**WO2 (SSM) Pete Underwood**
Trg SSgt	**SSgt Wullie Ireland**
Trg Sgt	**Sgt Carl Strefford**
Instr's	**Cpl Andy Murray**
	Cpl Derek Clifford
	Cpl Paul Watts

Recently, the wing took a welcome break from general military and pre detachment training courses, to assist HQ Sqn with its annual military study presentation to the officers and SNCO's of the Regeiment. The topic this year was the raid on the Fort at Eben Emael on 10 May 1940.

EBEN EMAEL

The raid on Fort Eben Emael in Belgium, reputed to be the strongest fort in the world, by a group of 70 airborne Sappers was part of one of the few successful German combined operations of World War 2. It was also one of the best kept secrets of the war.

On 26 May a somewhat less aggressive but still highly motivated group of officers and SNCO's arrived at the fort, to be given a presentation on the raid by **Maj Pat McCulloch** and **WO2 (SSM) Pete Underwood**. This was followed by a conducted tour of both the interior of the fort and the outside installations. It was made more interesting by the fact that some of the veterans who defended the fort and took part in the action were among the party and were able to give first hand information on the raid.

FAREWELLS

Sadly the Wing has just waved goodbye to **Cpl Dai Treeby** who has left us to cross the water. We wish **Dai, Jackie** and the girls all the best and hope you have a quiet tour. A little bit of all of us went with you **Dai**, but don't worry, when we find out what it is, we will let you know.

Training Wing
Back Row: Sgt Stanton, Cpls Clifford, Watts, Andy Murray and Sgt Strefford
Front Row: WO2 (SSM) Pete Underwood, Maj Chris Donaghy (2IC) and SSgt Wullie Ireland

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

FAREWELL TO SGT JIM PERRY

Sgt Jim Perry, known throughout the Corps as an outstanding ski instructor and mountain leader was given a final farewell in the Corporals' Mess.

Most members of the Regiment will remember him as the Chief Instructor of the Regimental Snow Queen Hut. He has also run many regimental expeditions to places like France, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, etc, etc, etc.

Now that he is a 'civvy', he will be unhampered by the constraints of military life and will be able to chase snow all the year round. His first stop is scheduled to be Aspen in the USA. Wherever he is, the Regiment wish him well.

Regimental 2IC Maj Charles Kemp presents the clock to Sgt Jim Perry

SYSTEM LEVEL MODIFICATION BRAVO (SLMB)

Between 6 and 20 June, Lippstadt became even more international than usual with the arrival of Belgians, French, Dutch and Germans, bringing their trunk communications with them. The idea was to see if we could all talk to each other!

Ptarmigan was plugged up to the French and Belgian RITA system, to the German Autoko, and the Dutch Zodiac. A high degree of interoperability was achieved.

The whole thing turned out to be something of a social occasion, with many multinational functions. Let's have another one soon!

Lt Neil Longley picking up some foreign habits during SLMB. Comd Comms 1 (Br) Corps Brig Waugh, Ops Officer Maj Binham and CO Lt Col Barrett give him a hard time

EXERCISE MARBORE TRIANGLE

This was a two week mountain skiing exercise held in the Pyrenees from 19 April to 5 May. Nine individuals were involved of which four were from the Squadron, **Capt Ian Dudding, Sig 'Bopper' Bromiley, Sig 'Scouse' Williams** and **Sig Tony Rowell**. There were unforgetable experiences and sights on this trip (not to mention the blisters!) The successful culmination of the ascent of the highest mountain in the Pyrenees the Aneto at 3,404m by **Cpl Smith** (2 Sqn), **Sig Williams** and **Rowell** was the high point. **Cpl Smith**, at an earlier stage of the exercise, had a heart stopping incident when he hurtled off the edge of a 600m drop and disappeared out of sight! Murmurs of 'he's dead' were heard, but none of it, there five minutes later was this dazed bundle hauling himself back to the spot from where he had taken off with that usual large grin on his face and heard to say 'which way this time'—good old **Smithy** you really do deserve to serve in 4 Sqn.

We arrived back in Lippstadt on the 5 May much refreshed and ready for anything.

CORPORAL MARTIN SMITH

Cpl Martin Smith has had a very different sort of year. In the last two months he has managed two quite impressive achievements.

Firstly, during Ex Marbore Triangle, a ski mountaineering exercise in the Pyrenees from 19 April to 6 May, he fell about 600m over rock and ice. His skis were broken, but he suffered only a few bruises. He got back up the slope, put on a spare pair of skis, and carried on with the rest of the group. 'I was all right after a few gallons of tea', he said. For this impressive feat of coolness, the Divisional Commander sent him a personal letter of commendation.

Not only did **Cpl Smith** get a letter from a General, but he also won the Regimental Gladiator Award, for the best all-round sportsman. He has been here for three years, and competes at regimental level in cross-country skiing, triathlon, cross-country running and athletics, to name but a few sports.

What more can he win? Watch the Army cross-country skiing championships next year! . .

Cpl Martin Smith being given the Regimental Gladiator award by the CO Lt Col Barrett

EXERCISE DOLOMITE TRIANGLE

Ex Dolomite Triangle was an adventure training expedition, trekking and climbing the famous Via Farratas of the Dolomites in Northern Italy which took place from 23 July to 5 August.

Base camp was set up in Cortina d'Amprezzo to allow the group to climb the surrounding mountains.

One of the climbs included a change in altitude of 1,000m. The first 400m was steep rocky path, and although this was tiring, the thought of a 600m rock climb made the team sweat even more. Once they had made it to the top, they were all keen to try another.

The expedition was a great success: some sore feet and a few blisters, but satisfied soldiers all!

The climbers, Sig Doe, Garbutt, Capt Odling, Sig McGrorey, LCpl Johnson, Sig York and Cpl Johnson

Back Row Left to Right: SSgt Hall, WO2 Wood, SSgts Jeffries, Steve Green, Cpls Johnson, Mel Wilson, SSgt Smith, WO2 Tunney, Maj Worrall, Capt Illingworth and WO1 Johnson

Front Row Left to Right: Sgt Bacon, Capt Rix, Maj Gainford, WO1 Harwood, SSgt Gilder, WO2 Kennedy, WO1 Marsden and Maj Bingham

RUGBY

The Regiment held its annual end of season celebrations with the ladies once more playing for charity, this year choosing GOSH as the benificary. The opposition were all members of the Officers Mess who joined wholeheartedly in the spirit of the game. The ladies had received several coaching sessions from **Sgt Steve Stevenson** and this showed in the excellent rugby played. Once again skippered by **June Wood**, the ladies opted to play open running rugby which was a pleasure to watch. They dominated the scrums with **Brenda Gainford** at scrum half (obviously had lessons on 'feeding' from her husband), and ran out resounding winners 18—0. Thanks to all the ladies, referee **Capt Ian Buckley** and the officers who took part to raise money for such a worthwhile cause.

The ladies game was followed by the Golden Oldies in action once again. This fixture has been an annual event for the past seven years, but for the first time the Oldies ran out winners 10—4. Once again the response from the Oldies was tremendous with them all managing at least a few minutes on the park, even **WO2 Jim Tunney** fifty years young. They played with tremendous skill and commitment, no one would have believed that, although one or two were in their early thirties, the average age was 42. We perhaps fielded the strongest Oldies side for many a year and were in a determined mood from the start. The forwards well led by **WO1 Trev Johnson** excelled in holding the Regiment's much younger and fitter counterparts. However, experience was the winner on the day. **SSgt Jeff Jeffries** and **Ex Sgt Steve Green** dominated the lineouts and on many occasions frustrated the opposition. Any ball the Regiment gained was chased and hounded by **Maj Frank Worrall, Mel Wilson** and **SSgt Tom Hall** who all gave excellent performances. The 'Old Man' and skipper of the side **Maj Geordie Gainford** with his toothless grin, prompted and probed relentlessly only to be 'sat on' occasionally, but the ball was always well cleared by **SSgt Wally Bacon** and **SSgt Q. Gilder**. The Oldies defence was well led by **WO1 Glen Harwood** who himself tackled excellently, nothing passed him all afternoon, ask the opposition! All in all it was a tremendously exciting game which the Regiment wanted to win, (no more than the Oldies, I can assure you), however it wasn't to be. You Beauty.

Look forward to next years' game, perhaps in the North of England, somewhere.

Once again **Mel Wilson** came over from UK, unfortunately being injured during the game. Also from UK came **Steve Green** an ex Royal Signals Technician Sergeant. Grateful thanks to them for making the effort and to all the Oldies who came along to make it such an enjoyable day.

The celebrations were rounded off in some style with a most excellent end of season dinner. **Cpl Brummie Clare** and his helpers are to be congratulated on organising such an impressive function. The Disco run by **Cpl Donnie Brough** went on until the early hours bringing to an end a most enjoyable and successful season. The Rugby Officer **Maj Geordie Gainford** would like to thank the CO and Sqn Comds, the wives and players for their tremendous support throughout the season.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. McIntyre**
2IC	**Capt Dave Wright**
OC A Tp	**Lt Graham Deans**
OC C Tp	**2Lt Mike Stevens**
SSM	**WO2 Derek Brown**
YofS	**SSgt Chris Rogan**
FofS	**WO2 Alex Kennedy**

DINING OUT OF CAPT STUART GRAY-COWAN

Monday 11 July saw the dining out by the Officers and SNCOs of 1 Sqn of **Capt Gray-Cowan**. The venue was the Sergeants' Mess by kind permission of the RSM and mess members. The evening started with one of the worst storms of the year, but this did not dampen the spirits of the guests. During the meal which was one of the hottest curries especially made for **Capt Stuart Gray-Cowan, WO2 (SSM) Derek Brown** presented the out going 'caretaker' OC (His own words) a plaque of the Lippstadt coat of arms hand carved in different woods.

Capt Stuart Gray-Cowan then thanked everyone for his two years in the Squadron. Best of Luck **Stuart** in BATUS Canada.

FOCUS ON A TROOP
Report by Lt Graham Deans and Tp Sgt, Sgt Aidan McLeod

Well the last few months have probably been some of the most hectic in the Troop since I arrived. Let me tell you the story. It all started one sunny day in July when a few men from the Directorate of Army Manning Audit (DAMA) arrived. These four wise men came to survey our manpower strength and see where they could make improvements within the Squadron and Regiment. They did this by carrying out interviews with all the men in A Tp and the Squadron. They came to the conclusion that we required a couple more men to aid and assist us in our daily tasks. meanwhile over this same three week period in July we had a trials exercise which occupied us fully 24 hours a day. So the whole period was rather busy to say the very least.

Moving swiftly on to chapter two, the Troop and Squadron then departed on to the next exercises, namely, Summer Tide and Summer Sales where we spent two weeks moving tactically around the countryside. 'Q why does the sun always beat down when we are in NBC suits and then suddenly disappear when you take them off'. I suppose this is one of life's great mysteries known only to **Sig Steve Dewer** who enjoyed 'Stand Tos' so much that he would get dressed in full IPE and skirmish out to his stand-to position under the direction of his detachment commander. In fact we haven't seen him since Endex so he might still be out there.

So all together it has been a busy active period for the Regiment and the Troop. We now look forward to a short summer rest before launching ourselves fully into battle camp in September.

On a final note we all wish **Capt Stuart Gray-Cowan** all the best on his posting to Batus Canada.

FOCUS ON C TROOP
Report by 2Lt Mike Stevens

OC	**2Lt Mike Stevens**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dave Hall**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt John Smith**
Line Sgt	**Sgt Steve Strefford**
TI Sgt	**Sgt Ken Kennedy**

It's been a busy time for the Troop over the last five weeks. The exercises High Pass and Summer Sales saw all personnel deployed at some time. Even the TI operators saw the green grass of Germany whilst being deployed with other Squadrons.

The Troop has also had a number of departures over the last month: **Cpl Arthur 'Grandad' Smart** has moved to 3 Armd Div in Soest but has managed to keep his quarter here in Lippstadt. Good luck to him and his wife **Sandra** on this his last tour.

Also good luck to **Cpl Dave Wood** and his wife **June** on their way back to the UK with a posting to 8 Sig Regt. **Cpl Steve Clark** and **Sig Mick Rudd** are also back to the UK, the former to B1 prior to his posting to 7 Sig Regt. Our final departure is to our OC **2Lt Mike Stevens** who is moving within the Regiment to take over Foxtrot Troop in 2 Sqn.

4 (JACQUES) SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Bob Carter**
2IC	**Capt Ian Dudding**
OC SHQ	**Lt David Drinkall**
OC J Tp	**Lt George Odling**
OC L Tp	**Lt Guy Ashton**
SSM	**WO2 Bill Hutton**
YofS	**SSgt Ron Perry**
FofS	**SSgt Tony Amplett**
SQMS	**SSgt Clive Sear**

This year has been an exceptionally busy one for the Regiment and the Squadron as a whole. The usual plethora of Spring exercises, rent-a-det, the running of the Morrison Cup and a horrendous Director of Army Manning Audit (DAMA—for those uninitiated!) which enlightened us all. I wonder where all those 'Troop to task cards are now?' All this aside we have now dived feet first into doing the things we often only dream of, such as; Mountain Skiing in the Pyrenees, Exchange Training with the Italian Army in Bari, Trekking in the Dolomites and Kenya, Summer Camp in the Harz and yes! believe it or not Leave. Some of these recent exploits are expanded on:

EXERCISE ROMAN BLEEP

Ex Roman Bleep is an annual Troop exchange with the Italian Army Signal Corps. This year members of 4 Sqn, and attachments, represented the Corps, the party consisted of: 1 Capt, 4 SNCOs and 26 ORs.

The eventful journey started at Lippstadt and after some 27 hours eventually ended at Bari, S Italy, where our host unit—Brigatte 'Pinerolo' (Pine Tree Brigade) were stationed. The losses on the journey being **Sgt John Fishers** wallet (wine tokens), one regimental clock plaque (more time lost). 31 Couchettes (sleepers) due to incorrect tickets. The lack of sleepers did not deter **Cpl Carl 'Bar' Crofts** who slept in the luggage rack.

We were met at the station by our host **Capt Amadio, 2Lt Sevillo** and **Pte Guiseppe Peccarisi.**

SECTION 1: VISIT TO TRANI

After bidding farewell to the forbidding walls of Persano, Section 1, ably led by **Sgt Nico Bevilacqua** (49 Fd Regt RA) made their way to a little town called Trani.

On arrival we were met by our hosts from the 9 Mech Inf Bn 'Bari'. A very old and historical Italian Regiment.

Then it was into the Officers' Mess for a late tea, the best we ate during our stay. We were then shown to our luxurious 20 man bunks and told we may shower at 1600 hrs each day.

After flag raising we were still waiting for the Italian charts to be played instead of the customary band on the rather large ghetto blaster. We were then shown an Italian mortar section springing into action. In the afternoon a quick film show and an even quicker change of dress into trunks and down to the beach. Well, stone quarry really. Our intrepid adventurers; **Owen** and **LCpl Matthewson** and **Sig Dave Cook** took on the Adriatic sea and lost, dismally. They have the scars to prove it.

The second day saw the re-enactment of World War 2. The Itals treating us to a workout on their fire and manoeuvre course, all sides coming out even. Then in the afternoon we were given two APC's to play with. **Cpl 'Scouse' Marks** led the way. 'Slow, slow' said the Italians. 'No, No' said he, and covered the course in half the normal time. **Cpl 'Nige' Morley** was given two rides in the APC, for we feared he might not survive the weekend.

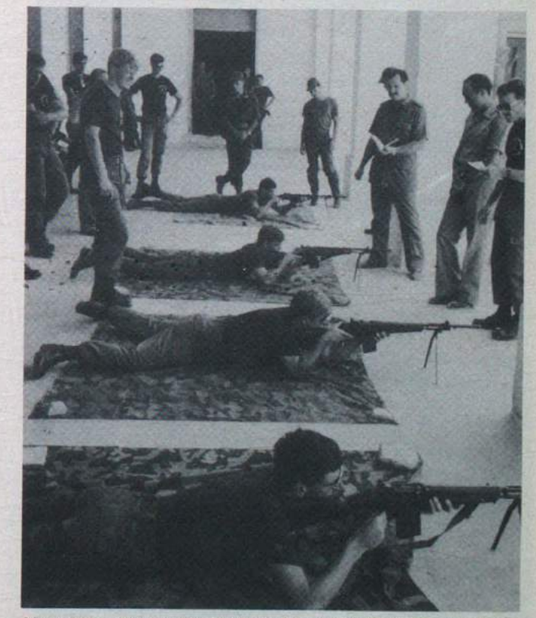
At last the cultural visits. A brief and interesting visit to a privately owned carriage and horse tack museum and a visit to a monastery. The rest of the day was spent visiting the sunrays and waters of Barletta. And, typical of soldiers, everybody was complaining they had missed the planned map reading lessons.

That night saw a visit to the cultural and ancient festival of St Nicolas. A rather large, loud and entertaining fair. The intrepid **LCpl Mark Simcock** took a ride on the big, well rather little really, dipper.

The fourth day saw us take another visit to cultural sights; namely the private beaches of Margherita Di Stavoia and a tightly packed sea, involving many a game of table football.

The return to Bari. But first the presentation of the Regimental clock to our hosts. In front of the entire occupants of Caserna A Lollio Ghetto an escort party commanded by **Cpl Phil Price**, comprised, **Cpls 'Nige' Morley** and **Owen** and our youngest soldier, **Sig Dave Cook**, clock bearer, carried out some guardslike drill to enable **Sgt Nico Bevilacqua** to present our gift to the CO of the Battalion. In return we all received Battalion stick pins, which we shall always cherish. To summarise, a superb time was had by everyone, and all thanks to our Italian host **Sergent-Majore Mimmo D. Stanini**, who suffered the most and came away with some choice, if colourful, British Army sayings. NB We all volunteer for Ex Roman Bleep II next year.

The trip was a thorough success and if offered the chance to go, units should accept. The Italian soldier is very professional despite being conscripted. The officers and SNCOs are very keen and are proud to show their skills and knowledge to visitors.



Members of the group giving the Pasta Chef a five second start while training on the 'PAL' automatic rifle

REPORT BY SECTION 3

The day after dropping sect 1 and 2 off at their respective Casernas was the start of section 3's four day stay in Bari. Day one started with a demonstration of the TOW. This was explained in many ways with much arm waving and facial contortions. The rest of the day was taken up on Bari beach arriving looking like a crate of milk bottles and leaving as perfect specimens of lobsters. To end the day we enjoyed refreshment outdoors.

The next day took us to Monopoli and a small secluded beach cove with crystal clear water. Needless to say snorkeling became the favourite pastime and **Cpl Bayfield** became a shark for the day. **Sig 'Bopper' Bromiley** got another sun tan over the one he already had and **Cpl Webbo Webster** became a piece of drift wood. There was a beautiful view all around us which was brightened up even more by the bella donnas.

After that came a visit to a zoo safari in Fasano. We toured the park in a minibus which doubled as an oven and the animals played their part by entertaining us with their impersonations of elephants, giraffes, lions etc and the monkeys too. Then there was a display by seals who, though we were the audience applauded us quite a lot. In the afternoon we visited a medieval village in Albearabella. This was where a lot of souveniers were bought.

In the evening we went to the local pizzeria for a pizza eating competition which was probably won by **Sig Mark Duff, Scouse Williams** and **Simpson**. We let **Cpl Fryer** win the monzerella cheese eating competition as he was the only one eating it.

Sunday, the fourth and last day before the other sections got back, found us back on Monopoli beach but as the waves were too high, snorkeling was out and body surfing was in. **SSgt Brown, Sgt Fisher** and **Cpls Crofts** and **Bayfield** led the way with this event and by the end of play swallowed enough salt to fill a box of Saxa each. **Cpl Webster** delighted by **Cpl Bayfield**'s impression of a shark tried to play at being one himself, but, unsuccessfully.

By this time we were all sporting suntans DPM except of course for **Sig Bromiley** who got yet another suntan on top of his others.

All in all the four days proved to be an experience for everyone and although 3 section stayed in Bari I can safely say a good time was had by all.

EXERCISE QUICK PADDLE II

On the side of a hill in Lancashire, in the glare of a circle of spotlights, a brass band blows the final chord of a well-worn tune while the 22 Sig Regt Canoe team, well-worn from a hard two days competing in the BAOR Sprint and Marathon championships are about to embark on a new adventure in South Wales; Ex Quick Paddle was about to begin.

So, how do you get 9 men, 7 canoes, 10 sets of paddles, a 12 x 12, a 9 x 9 and enough compo to last 10 days into one landrover and trailer (legally)? This was the first of many hurdles to be overcome before the start of the Regiment's canoe team's participation in the Corps and Army Sprint and Long Distance Canoe Championships, held in Monmouth, South Wales.

Those taking part were nearly all from 4 Sqn, **Sgts 'Andy' Trivett, 'Steve' Payne, LCpls 'Tony' May, 'Shawn' Haslam, Sig 'Scouse' Virgo, 'Smudge' Smith, 'Paul' Monaghan, 'Quad' Harland** and last and probably least in most aspects **2Lt David Drinkall**.

The journey to the UK was long and tiring, but without any major mishap. On arriving in Wales we made camp and were on the water within the hour! The team, consisting mainly of novices soon found how hard the nine mile upstream course was in boats in which they had relatively little experience.

However, after six days of early morning runs and hours of intensive 'on water' training, confidence began to show and the team was now actually looking forward to the competition and the challenges it would bring.

Sig Virgo and LCpl Haslam in the 500m

The competition was split into two parts; Sprint and Marathon, the Corps sprints being held on the Thursday and the Army sprints on the Saturday. The Marathon race, a 24km paddle of which half was upstream, combined to form both the Corps and Army results.

The results were very encouraging and proved that the Regiment and of course the Squadron has a highly competitive and enthusiastic squad. It is hoped that with continued enthusiasm and training, Canoe 22 will next year become a team to watch.

QUICK PADDLE—RESULTS
R SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sprint

1st	Senior C Class 5	500m	**Sig Smith**
2nd	Senior C Class 3	500m	**Sig Harland**
2nd	Senior C K2	500m	**2Lt Drinkall/Sgt Payne**
3rd	Senior B K1	500m	**Sgt Trivett**
3rd	Senior C Class 4	500m	**Sig Virgo/LCpl Haslam**
3rd	Senior C K1	500m	**Sgt Payne**

Marathon

1st	Senior C Class 5		**Sig Smith**
2nd	Senior B K1		**Sgt Trivett**
2nd	Senior C Class 3		**Sig Harland**

ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sprint

2nd	Senior B K2	500m	**Sgt Trivett/Capt Williams RAMC**
2nd	Senior B K2	1,000m	**Sgt Trivett/Maj Howie RAEC**
2nd	Senior C Class 3	500m	**Sig Harland**
4th	Senior C Class 5	500m	**Sig Smith**

Marathon

2nd	Senior C Class 3		**Sig Harland**
3rd	Senior B K1		**Sgt Trivett**
4th	Senior C Class 5		**Sig Smith**

NEIL ADAMS MBE VISITS LIPPSTADT JUDO CLUB

On Saturday 23 July, **Neil Adams MBE**, former World Judo Champion and twice Olympic silver medalist, visited 22 Sig Regt to help with a two-day judo course for children from all over BAOR.

The programme for Saturday included **Neil Adams** teaching the children new techniques in the morning, followed by a Junior competition in the afternoon. The climax of the day was a competition where **Neil** took on six Black Belt instructors, individually, and beat them all, each within ten seconds.

On Sunday the demonstration continued. **Neil** presented a medal to **Ian Hott**, already a judo enthusiast at six years old. **Neil Adams** himself was presented a trophy by **Brig S. C. Grand**, Comd 33 Armd Bde. The trophy was inscribed 'all the best at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games'.

The weekend was a total success and the credit for this was due to **WO2 (Jeff) Archer**, the APTC instructor for the Regiment, and **Mrs Sara Crew**, who catered for the hundred children attending.

Neil Adams demonstrating judo in the gymnasium

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RHQ PERSONALITIES

Comd	**Lt Col Brian Chubb**
Dep Comd	**Maj Bob Drake**
Adjt	**Capt Andrew Trimble**
Ops Offr	**Capt Jack Cowen**
Tech Adjt	**Capt Chris Millard**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Tom Ponton**
YofS	**WO1 (YofS) Jim Williamson**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Pete Johnson**
ORQMS	**WO2 (ORQMS) Chris Martin**
Typists	**Julie and Donna**

NEWS FROM REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Since our last article St Tonis has been a hive of activity, Exercises, Military Training, Ex Active Edge, Adventurous Training, Expeditions and, for some, Leave!

Whilst the routine, the exceptional and even the ridiculous are every day occurrences in RHQ the past few months appear especially frenetic.

Farewell to **'Rab'**. At the end of July RHQ said farewell to one of its characters **'Rab' Rennie**. All in RHQ wish **'Rab'** good luck in his posting to 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn.

Congratulations to **Lt Col Brian Chubb** and **Capt Carol Lee** on winning the Corps Mixed Doubles Tennis Trophy.

Farewell to **Lt Christine Knipe WRAC** our Assistant Adjutant. **Christine** has been tireless in athletics on behalf of the Regiment. Alas in February she was injured whilst skiing and is only now recovering her full fitness. In **Christine**'s absence her seat has been filled by **Lt Ralph** who has also ably assisted the Adjutant, **Capt Andrew Trimble**, only proving to all concerned that it is a dogs life in RHQ. **Lt Christine Knipe** now moves on promotion to Hameln Garrison.

The Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Chris Martin** is only now recovering from being plastered for the second time in one year—plaster cast might be a more accurate description. So much for the 'Fun Runs'.

Welcome to **2Lt Jackie Foster** our new Assistant Adjutant.

REGIMENTAL ADVENTURE TRAINING
A report by WO2 (SSM) Brian Parkhill

A Challenge Pursuit Camp was held at AMTC Silberhutte between 17 June and 8 July. A total of 172 people from the Regiment attended over the three week period. A small admin team including OC Trg Wg, **Capt Nick Keen** Trg Wg WO, **WO2 Brian Parkhill** and various activity instructors, ensured that all students were kept relatively busy during the five day period each attended.

WINDSURFING

Under the instruction of **Capt Dave Gilchrist**, windsurfing was a great success, albeit for only one week. Four students gained their RYA Level 1.

CANOEING

Ably controlled by **SSgt Dave Orange (APTC), Cpl Paul Dickinson** and **Cpl Nick Hawkins**, canoeing was, despite the mandatory ducking, much enjoyed by all. Seven of the twelve members of the Regiment tested, gained the ACU Inland Proficiency Award.

CLIMBING

Despite the initial apprehension, rock climbing proved to be the most popular activity offered. With expert instruction from **SSgt Dave Orange (APTC), Sgt Bob Cook** and **Cpl Tony Mee**, all those who took part (maybe with one or two exceptions), agreed that the excitement created during, and sense of achievement after, completing a particular climb, made rock climbing most satisfying and challenging.

SUB-AQUA

Under the leadership of **Capt Mike Law** and **Sgt John Acklaw**, sub-aqua proved an interesting activity during the one week that facilities were available. Approx 40 people went through the experience of being able to breathe freely under water.

The programme for each five day period involved arriving on Monday at lunch time, leaving four and a half training days available. Three days were taken up by a major activity, one day at one of the other skills, and half a day on a Border Viewing Trip.

Full use of the excellent Adventurous Training 'ten pack' issued to the Unit by BAOR was possible, and that, supplemented with equipment for FOD Dulmen ensured that students were properly kitted out for their particular activity.

FRAN FETE 88

The annual Regimental Fran Fete was held on Saturday 4 June and was a great success—even the weather was kind to us and we escaped with a couple of very light showers! The aim was to raise money for service and local charities, and to have some fun, of course. The profit for distribution to charities was DM13,000 (£4,200). The Fete was opened by **Miss Lesley Crowther** from SSVC TV, who also drew the winning ticket for the star draw prize of a Seat Marbella. Apart from the numerous stalls and refreshment tents there were also displays of Dancing, Karate, Motor Cross and RAF Police Dogs. The most popular stall, however, was the Ducking Stook, particularly when it was occupied by the Commander, RSM or WRAC! The photographs give a 'feel' for the day . . .

WO2 (SSM) Martin Roberts awaits his dip

Maj Alan Evans, BFBS personality Lesley Crowther and Cpl Sanders—the Interpreter

Lt Col Brian Chubb presents the Star Prize to the winners Sqn Ldr and Mrs Lottiga

ALPHA TROOP 1 SQUADRON

It has been a very busy period in the Troop with the following arrivals and departures:

ARRIVALS

Sgt 'Remo' Williams on promotion from Bravo Tp, **Pte Sue Spilsbury** from 8 Sig Regt Basic Training, **SSgt John Gibson** SQMS on promotion from 2 Sqn, **SSgt Chris Smithson** Troop Staff Sergeant from School of Signals and **Capt Martin Corcoran** from 8 Sig Regt via the Falklands.

DEPARTURES

Sgt Steve Stackwood and **Cpl Kev Harrod** to civvy street. **Sgt John Ferris** and family to School of Signals, **Sig Mark Nixon** to 233 Sig Sqn and all the very best to **Capt Dave Gilchrist** and family on posting to 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Barty' Bartliff** on his recent promotion.

THE FOLLOWING NOTABLE TROOP ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Troop OC **Lt Debbie Wheatley-Price** and **Capt Carol Lee** (OC Papa Tp), after a hard fought final in the WS BAOR Tennis Championships they were narrowly beaten into the runners up position. Congratulations also go to **'Sandy' Sanders** on passing his German Linguists course.

The WRAC members of the Troop were training hard for most of April for the WRAC March and Shoot Competition which was held at Haltern on 6 May in conjunction with the RCZ SAAM.

After an 8 mile slog on the hottest day of the year with Skeleton Webbing and SMG, all the six WRAC teams who had entered, had gained maximum marks for completing the March in under two hours.

The final result was decided on the Modified Shoot. All our training had paid off and we came out convincing winners with a score of 86 out of a possible 100. **LCpl Elaine Tuff** scoring the best of the day with 16 out of a possible 20. Team consisted of **SSgt Milli Jeffery, Cpls Karen Mason, Jane Little, LCpl Elaine Tuff, Ptes Helen Price, Anne Pocklington** and **Sara Lewis.**

BRAVO TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Adventure Trainers gathered at 0400 hrs on a Monday morning to board luxury transport to AMTC Silberhutte. No sooner had the vehicles left St Tonis than bodies were seen lying in every conceivable position endeavouring to sleep.

After 10 tortuous hours travelling we finally arrived only to find that a section of us had to change to take part in a Border viewing trip.

Monday evening was spent being briefed by **Lt Debbie Wheatley-Price** on our forthcoming three day trek and the specific routes we were to follow. Scrutiny of the maps revealed numerous strategic watering holes along the way. The four groups were split into two and sent in opposite directions around the two overnight locations.

Our two sections consisted of **Lt Debbie Wheatley Price, SSgt (YofS) Wally Bacon, Sgt Mick Arnold, Cpl 'Taff' Hughes, Cpl Angie Hynds, LCpl Geoff Jefferies, Sig Simon Brice, Sig Fritz Hynd** and **Pte Susan Spilsbury.**

The two groups set off with a one hour interval but by some miraculous feat of map reading managed to arrive at the same time. The blame was fairly and squarely laid with **Cpl 'Taff' Hughes** who against his Section Commander's wishes took a short cut.

The next morning, rain, **Lt Debbie Wheatley-Price** got her section up bright and early and set off on the next stage. Our section decided to have a lie-in and did not set off until two hours later. Again we arrived at the same time (who can I blame this time?). After another short cut, which ended with the women complaining about the steepness of the gradient, we walked down to reach the final location.

By this stage the walkers were thoroughly wet and the evening was spent around a camp fire. The chink of bottles and smell of burning training shoes lingered.

The last day and back to base; yes, another short cut. The trek was finally over and there were many with sore feet who were glad to lay their heads on even a half decent bed for a change.

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Andy Bowering**
2IC	**Capt Brian Peel**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Martin Roberts**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Pete Wykes**
	SSgt (YofS) Trevor Gower
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Paul Wilson**
	SSgt (FofS) Ray Wilson
SQMS	**SSgt (Soon to be WO2) Barry Lewis**

EXERCISE VICTOR BACKSTOP 1988

Victor Troop held its Annual Summer Camp in Cochem on the Mosel this year. The camp was split into three one week periods to allow all shift and day workers to attend. The permanent staff for the camp consisted of **SSgt John Gibson, Sgt Mark Donaldson** and **Sig Ade Lant.** They were fortunate to have had **Cpl Theo Ruyter,** as Dutch chef with them for the three weeks.

WRAC March and Shoot Competition
Back L to R: Cpls Karen Mason, Jane Little, Paymaster Capt MacDonald-Evans of Denovan RAPC, Pte Helen Price and SSgt Milli Jeffery
Front L to R: Pte Sara Lewis, LCpl Elaine Tuff and Pte Anne Pocklington

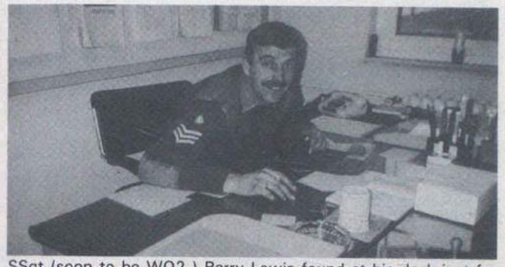
The main activities of the camp consisted of walking, cycling and sporting events. The idea was to enhance team spirit and bring out leadership qualities in a different environment from that of the Commcen.

WO1 June Skelton attended the first week and was somewhat surprised by the character of some of the individuals on the camp, not normally seen in the Commcen. One example being **Cpl Gary Hughes** who assumed the role of camp host and 'social' leader in the evenings.

The OC **Capt John Floyd** attended for one day each week, notably when there was a barbecue which he obviously thought he had earned as he had done one of the afternoon walks!

During the second week the pace was obviously telling on **SSgt Gibson** who took an unscheduled lie-in and then decided to cancel PT one and half hours after it had taken place.

The second week passed, the third arrived and with it came **Sgt Phil McSorley** who decided it would be a good idea to have a cabaret. It was generally agreed by everyone that the camp had been a success and an enjoyable break from the routine of the Commcen. **WO1 Skelton** came down each week to record some of the activities on video.



SSgt (soon to be WO2) Barry Lewis found at his desk just for once

2 Squadron WOs
L to R: Hear No Evil—WO2 (SSM) Roberts, See No Evil—WO2 (YofS) Wykes, Speak No Evil—WO2 (FofS) Wilson

We have had a lot of comings and goings over the last few months and would like to say our hellos and goodbyes:

ARRIVALS

We would like to welcome the following to Victor Troop and hope they enjoy their tour: **Capt** and **Mrs Floyd, Sgts Eyre, Storrar, Lake, Cpl Smith, LCpls Precious, McAllister, Sig Lant, Ptes Leslie, Joyce, Thomson, Bocker, Hughes, McAuley, Park** and **Davidson.**

DEPARTURES

A fond farewell to the following and we wish them all the best in their new postings/jobs: **Capt** and **Mrs Harkins, SSgt Gibson, Sgts Holsgrove, Phipps, Knaggs, Cpls Tomkins, Finch, Bodie, Barr, Sig Barber, Ptes A. Smith, Lane, Carr** and **Philipson.**

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

EXERCISE CYGNET DISH

Cygnet Dish was the outcome of two years of efforts to send a TSC 502 det to South Korea, to test Satcom from there to UK. From 6-31 May, a party of eight from 1 Sqn flew out from Brize Norton, were organised by the Commonwealth Liaison Mission in Seoul (which was described in the March issue of *The Wire*), spent ten days testing comms in the city of Taegu, and then experienced a fairly protracted (six and a half days) return journey.

In Taegu, we lived and worked in two US Army camps—Henry and Walker. The Satcom station was set up in the one spot which could work to the satellite (honest)—just above the Hilltop Club in Camp Walker. Accommodation was in Camp Henry, and driving between the two in the CLM's Landrover provided an early taste of Korean culture—the universal urge to kill all other drivers. After many efforts to learn the Highway Code, it was decided to use **Sig 'Gadget' Smith** as the det driver. This in fact made driving even more dangerous, but the Koreans suddenly seemed quite reasonable and safety conscious.

After 12 hours of fault finding by the techs, a rather dampening discovery was made—the station's tuning unit was BLR, and a new one would have to be flown out from the Regiment. After four days it arrived, the station worked, and lo! we could tell the Ops Room just how much we were looking forward to seeing them again! Despite the hurdles of equipment faults, Korean telephone operators (who are not to be trifled with), and red tape, communication was eventually established using two different routes, and we achieved the aim of the exercise.

Off duty, we were looked after by 36 Sig Bn and 188 Military Police Coy—a nice, quiet and sober group of people. They introduced us to the Las Vegas Club (the tone of this establishment can easily be imagined), where **Cpl Jimmy Dahlstrom** proved an early hit with his table surfing expertise. Not to be outdone, **Cpl Tony McGaw** followed with his nose dive from a table surf. Other experiences included an early morning run with the 36 Sig Bn: a Crusade-like procession around camp, complete with flags and sing-songs. **Sig Nick Steen** had to be held back from seizing the Battalion colours and warning the CO off for remedial PT. Food varied from kimshi (cabbage flavoured with lighter fuel) and the notorious squid with seaweed, to the nearly as strange American diet.

Ex Cygnet Dish *(L-R):* Capt Steve Ardagh-Walter, Sig 'Gadget' Smith, Sig Nick Steen, Cpls Pete Anwyll, Jimmy Dahlstrom, Tony McGaw, Steve Marshall and Jed Astell

A view from the SATCOM station in Camp Walker

After the communication phase in Taegu, we spent a final two days in Seoul before setting off on an RAF Mystery Tour—otherwise known as a Far East C-130 Trainer—for the ride home. The first stop of this odyssey was back in Hong Kong, where it was announced that a propeller seal was u/s and we would have to wait two and a half days for a replacement. Morale, quite predictably, plummetted at this news. Two and a half days later, and quite a few dollars poorer, we set off again in the 'airborne four-tonner' for Singapore. This was only seen during a short overnight stay, before moving on to 'Male International Airport' in the Maldives (these are some 400 miles south of India and not in Burma, as the Ops Room believes). We stayed on a classic 'Bounty advert' island, containing nothing but coconuts, Japs and Germans. The next stop was Bahrein, where another propeller change was announced. Enthusiasm for propeller changes was declining by now, but fortunately the ground engineers fixed the problem overnight. We spent the penultimate leg—to Palermo in Italy—watching oil spewing from the jinxed engine; it was decided to 'go for it' with an extra can of Castrol, and we arrived at Lyneham in the early hours of the 31 May.

EXERCISE COBB RING 88

A report by the Adjutant

As some readers may know, it falls to the Adjutant of 30 Sig Regt to keep the home fires burning whilst the rest of the Regiment 'globetrots' on various out of area exercises. Whilst it could be said that the wonderful vistas of North Dorset and Blandford Camp, observable from the office windows, offer some small compensation; it is often difficult to stave-off the odd 'pout' when OCs 1 and 2 Squadrons head off on another 'recce' to communicable disease ridden parts of the world! Occasional cries of 'shame, shame' are appreciated but, I am happy to report, no longer needed (at least until the new incumbent arrives), Ex Cobb Ring was to prove my rescuer.

Ex Cobb Ring is an exercise designed not only to practise long range Continency HF comms in an out of area setting, but also to practise interoperability between likely allies. Cobb Ring 88 was staged in the USA between 16 May and 3 June 1988, and hosted by 50 Sig Bn (AB), Fort Bragg, North Carolina. My involvement in the exercise was (unfortunately for him) at the CO's expense because a last minute hospital appointment prevented him flying out as the 'one-up' visitor. A quirk of fate 'threw me up' as the only suitable and most dispensable representative, thus I arrived in America after 14 hours notice!

The exercise commenced on 16 June with the departure of 2 Squadron group led by **Maj Frank** (All the way sir!) **Riley**. The total party comprised some 28 in number—found almost exclusively from 2 Squadron save for the notable exception of another 'renegade' from top floor RHQ—**WO1 (YofS) Percy Beyon**—ostensibly employed as communication consultant and troubleshooter; his impartial dispensation of abuse to both UK and US personnel was to win the 'admiration' of all! The move itself was coordinated and controlled (after a fashion) by our erstwhile unit emplanement officer (UEO) **WO2 (SSM) 'Ginf' Knight**, who enthralled us with his new found knowledge (course trained y'know) and revealed that the *real* skill in being a UEO was to know as *little* about the move as possible and trust to individual chalk commanders to do the biz!

Although the exercise was to have communicating as its main aim, an ancillary aim was to demonstrate some of our new kit to our cousins and vice versa. To this end, the services of **WO1 (SMI) Tony Burrows** of the Small Arms School Corps and **Sgt Sutherland** RHF from the DNBC Centre were enlisted; they took out and demonstrated SA80, the Light Support Weapon and the complete range of new NBC equipment respectively.

Transposing the whole of Yorkshire upon a relatively arid, scrubby sand-pit and increasing the mean summer temperature by about 30°F gives a fairly accurate description of Fort Bragg Military Reservation. Even accepting that the 'Fort' houses the whole of 18 (US) AB Corps—complete with heavy lift aircraft (Pope AFB), its size is difficult to comprehend. Nevertheless, our reception by 50 Sig Bn (Corps) (AB) was a warm one and we were made to feel at home by the CO, **Lt Col William T. Jeunewine Jnr** and his Ops staff comprising **Capt Jared Kline** and **Lt Joy Poulson**. After a minor hiccough over accommodation, we settled in and began the exercise proper by setting up an equipment demonstration. The settling-in process was eased considerably by the 'local' knowledge **Cpl** (soon to be Sergeant) **Angus Palmer** had amassed as a result of his already being three weeks in situ as he had been running the US det of Ex Global Contact which had finished one week prior to our arrival! Consequently, the Roccola Cafe in 'downtown' Fayetteville became well frequented by the 'boys'.

The nitty-gritty of the exercise, long range HF communication and interoperability trials, proved very successful. The 92ft high, 240ft long sloping Vee, erected by a joint team and worked by a UK VRC 322 det 'boomed' into Blandford first time, greatly impressing our

The 'Weapons Stand'—LCpl Bibby and Sig Cherry doing the 'grunt' bit whilst SMI Burrows talks to the press!

The 'NBC Stand'—Sig Seddon 'models' the S10 respirator for a fascinated OC 2, Maj Frank Riley, whilst LCpl Howarth tries to barter with Sgt Sutherland for some 'gear'

hosts but only mildly satisfying **WO2 (FofS) Campbell Morrison** who 'knew' it would work anyway and what was all the fuss about?

Half way through the exercise, and with the help of the UK LO with the US Marine Corps, **Capt Alistair Haddow RM**, a splinter group led by the Yeoman, detached itself to Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville NC—the 'home' of the USMC and repeated the process with even greater success save for the link between Bragg and Lejeune (200km) which wouldn't work!

By dint of excellent groundwork done by the recce (a stance maintained by OC 2 Sqn!), the exercise mid-way point coincided with US 'Labor Day' thus everyone took a four day weekend. Most stayed in and around Bragg as a result of cash flow crises. **SSM Knight** decided to re-live his mis-spent youth and headed for Myrtle Beach SC whilst OC 2, myself and the Yeoman and I, hired a car and headed for Charleston SC, staying in the Navy Station Officers Mess ($5 a night!) and soaking up culture, Bud Light, Michelob, Coors etc.

The final week of the exercise witnessed numerous concurrent activities from re-activating the UK HF link to a full set-up of 18 (US) Corps' commnd/commcen and a series of range days during which each other's weapons were fired—much to the chagrin of **Lt Joy Poulson** who found every round fired by her SLR knocked her 2-3in further down the firing point until evil friend **Knight** told her to turn her gas-plug from 0 to 8!

After a farewell barbecue for the lads and a farewell dinner for the Officers and Seniors, we took our leave of Fort Bragg and departed for the UK again under nominal control of our UEO, and emplaned at Pope AFB. Everything started smoothly with Chalk One lifting-off for Gander on time, however, as if to re-affirm OC 2's increasing mistrust of the RAF, Chalk Two developed propeller trouble and had to turn back to Pope—departing 38 hours later once a new prop had been flown out from the UK. (Strange, because Pope AFB has more C130s than the entire RAF!)

EXERCISE PURPLE VENTURE 88

Ex Purple Venture 88 was a joint service CPX conducted on Ascension Island over the period 9-28 June. The majority of the Regiment's personnel involved in the exercise were drawn from 1 Sqn who deployed a Commcen, a Satcom detachment and two medium HF cabins. 2 Sqn supplied secure VHF voice, short range HF and the Island taxi service. 3 Sqn supplied the line contingent commanded by **Cpl Frew**.

The Joint Force Headquarters was established inside Portacabins at Fairclough Village (so named after Fairclough International who constructed Wideawake Airfield and the Travellers Hill amenities in 1983). Working conditions inside the cells and detachments were to say the least sticky, so there were constant queues at the tea and jungle juice urns. (The results of tests carried out on those who exceeded the recommended tea dosage are to be passed to the BMA and British Nuclear Fuels.) The heat even had its effect on the equipment with fans having to be brought in to stop the HF transmitter overheating and tripping out. Temperatures varied between 80 degrees Farenheit and 100 plus.

Those who managed to get away from it all between shifts could relax by the pool or take a trip down to English Bay for a dip in the sea. Whilst on the subject of water, it is generally regarded by those who witnessed it that the highlight of the exercise was watching **Maj Frank Riley** attempting to claw his way on to an air bed in the swimming pool, he eventually made it, to be applauded loudly by all those present.

Another contender in the hilarity stakes was **Lt Paul Graham** who had his thoughts concentrated whilst swimming in the sea at English Bay; a certain member of 2 Sqn threw a lump of bread into the water directly in front of him resulting in the local 'Trigger Fish' going into a feeding frenzy not a million miles from his swimming trunks. Yes, a Lieutenant is capable of walking on water!

Sig Wright spent most of the exercise driving **SSgt (YofS) Dave Marriott** to Long Beach in search of the big turtle. It was never sighted although they did assist some hatchlings on their first journey to the sea.

During the exercise we were visited by **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE**, Comd 2 Sig Bde who, after touring the Headquarters to speak to the operators, expressed the desire to meet Comd Comms CENTATLANT, none other than **LCpl Jackson**, who is the senior member of the Corps on the Island. They had a lengthy discussion with regard to improving the cable lays on Travellers Hill, which have suffered in the past from flash floods. As a result the Brigadier left for UK with plenty of food for thought.

On the sporting front the Islanders were challenged to a number of events including football and tug-of-war. A good rapport was established with the locals through these activities, basically because they won everything.

Exercising the three services together so far from home is no easy task but thanks to the hard work put in by all those involved, Ex Purple Venture 88 was a complete success.

Brig Alexander *(left)* and the CO Lt Col Neil Donaldson, listen to LCpl Carl Budding watched by a sceptical Cpl John Linck

WO2 (YofS) Garth Pickersgill taking his turnout very seriously!

On the left: Comd 2 Sig Bde, Brig J. O. C. Alexander, talking to Sig Mick Howard

Sgt Paul Fowkes explains the finer points to Brig Alexander

EXERCISE WILTSHIRE PHEASANT

The exercise started off well, the line up, packed rations and all else went according to plan; there was even some good news to put us in the right frame of mind, **Cpls Palmer** and **Robinson** had just come off the Sergeants' board—congratulations to both of them. The set up went well and radio silence was soon imposed so 2 Sqn went into relaxed mode, 3 Sqn had its usual struggle with Bruin and as usual triumphed.

Sig Cranswick then brightened up everyone's day by snapping off a gear stick from the 2IC 3 Sqn's rover, he then managed to bog the same rover whilst trying to change gear with a pair of pliers. Meanwhile radio silence was lifted but still no one used the nets at all. The TA staff then started to arrive, one came from as far as Aberdeen. The COS then started in earnest and 'stand-tos' became commonplace, it also started **Q Jones'** catchy new phrase 'no cam cream—no meal', quite a few people went hungry.

Eventually endex was called and 3 Sqn went home on the Monday, whilst 2 Sqn had already disappeared on the Sunday, the only time their radios were used was to coordinate the return to barracks. Roll on September and Denmark.

EXERCISE NORMAN QUEST 88

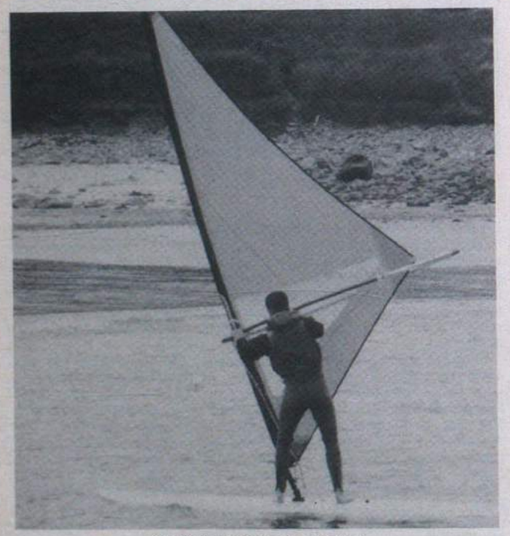
Ex Norman Quest is an annual community aid and adventurous training exercise, held on Alderney in the Channel Islands, jointly run by 30 Sig Regt and RAF Odiham.

The exercise got off to a damp start, when the RCT Landing Craft carrying the advance party could not unload the vehicles on to the slipway, as planned, and had to land on the beach. This was too much for **SSgts Ken Jones** and **Jim Keeping** who took the easy way out by landing in a rubber dinghy. This was followed by the game of 'now we have the vehicles on the beach how do we get them on to dry land?'. Engineer trackway, left behind by the German Army in 1945, solved the problem.

Is this Landrover waterproofed?

The main party of the exercise travelled in comfort—by RAF Chinook helicopter into Alderney airport. It did not take very long to discover that other than its natural beauty Alderney does have some other attractions—like 20 pubs with only around 2,000 people to use them. One of them even had draught Grolsch (but it did not last long with 45 thirsty, appreciative soldiers and airmen!).

The work of the week was soon underway, with groups involved in canoeing, windsurfing, climbing and working in the grounds of the only school on the island. Various levels of proficiency were shown by the members of the exercise with **2Lt Phillipa Owens** and **Sig Bob Beaney** the leading contenders in windsurfing (when they could persuade **WO1 (ASM) Steve Bray** and **Chief Tech Paddy Powers** to let them use the boards). Sadly the rocks were not very good for climbing, with very loose rocks on all of the faces. This limited the climbing to some fairly easy top-roped pitches going up, and some exciting abseils coming down. **Sgt Andy Foster** ran the work parties at the school, and was rather embarrassed when some of the pupils arrived at the campsite asking if he was coming to play!



Sig Bob Beaney windsurfing

LCpl Mal Leech and **Sig Robbo Robertson** took to fishing off the rocks in the bay next to the campsite, but could not understand why they did not catch any fish, using a bent pin for a hook, cam string for a line and a padlock as a weight. Any fishermen should send suggestions to . . .

Sadly the weather in the Channel Islands was not up to its usual standard for the first few days but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the excellent 'work hard/play hard' spirit that soon developed, amongst Army and RAF alike. Firm friendships soon developed, with both the RAF and the locals. We even began to understand some of the RAF's habits.

Outside of work, darts, snooker and football matches were arranged against local teams. The results were: darts—lost, snooker—won, football—drawn. Honours were shared.

Special thanks must go to **Sgt Eve Watkins** (Is this my tent?), who ran the exercise accounts, and **Cpl Paul Norris** our chef, who provides us with the best food we have seen on any exercise. **SSgts Jim Keeping** and **Ken Jones** did a very good job running the admin.

Overall, an excellent exercise was had by all, with the aims of the exercise being totally met. The list of names for next year is already filling up, fast!

TM TROOP

A few words from the newest but not the smallest Troop in the Regiment. Formed in May 1988, commanded by the TOT, **Capt Bill Kent** and run by the WO1 Foreman **Bob Thompson**, it 'houses' some 50% of the technicians in the Regiment.

TM Tp or 'Ohm' (as the techs like to call it) has some four workshops, three ERVs and a multitude of hard working technicians. It is responsible for all second line maintenance work and inspections in a centralised workshop. All technicians will spend periods during their tours in the Troop for specialised equipment training, upgrading assessment and all do roulement tours.

Maintenance procedures and practices have been analysed and reviewed. Change is the order of the day and it will be some time before things settle. We hope to keep you informed in future notes and will include photographs of leading personalities and aspects of our work both in barracks and on our overseas deployments. There has been some resistance however—'ohm' is where the Technicians are!

OFFSHORE SAILING

Encouraged by its success in the Royal Signals Offshore Regatta, the Regimental Sailing Team threw caution to the wind and entered the Army Offshore Championships as the Corps representative. The regular crew of **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor** (Skipper), **Capt Mark Butler** (Navigator) and **LCpl Ken Kendell** was bolstered up by the evergreen **Maj Jack Amberton** (Foredeck).

In a brisk Force 4-5 wind the team had a cracking start, short-tacking along the coast against an adverse tide, and crossing the Solent 400m ahead of the next boat. After a four-hour race where tactics and teamwork ran according to plan, our yacht *Skirmisher* finished nine minutes ahead of the next. It was almost too good to be true.

The second race in the series was a much closer affair with three boats representing R Signals, REME and ACC repeatedly changing places at the front of the fleet. After some close tacking duels and exciting spinnaker runs, *Skirmisher* finished second, clinching the Army Championship (Halcyon Cup) by two points.

The third and final race was the Passage Race for which a separate trophy would be awarded. **Capt Butler** was somewhat surprised to find included in the course IOW(S). Surely this didn't mean 'Isle of Wight to Starboard? There must be some mistake!'. There wasn't. With a greatly reduced sail area due to the forecast of strong winds, *Skirmisher* beat into big seas towards Bembridge. Around the more exposed southern side of the island the boat was buffeted by winds of Force 7 and 8 and mountainous waves. *Skirmisher* was lying comfortably in second place when suddenly she ground to a halt. A fishing net had fouled the keel. After attempts to heave-to, tack and heel the boat on its ear she finally wrigged free, but it had cost 20 precious minutes. The crew were soaked to the skin and so was their kit down below, but the unanimous decision was to press on.

Wind against tide at the Needles was an experience none of the crew will forget. To make any headway, **Capt Lewis-Taylor** had to steer a dangerous course close in towards the rocks. The lighthouse keeper was standing on the steps waiting for an imminent grounding and shipwreck, while **Maj Amberton** shook with horror as a freak wave caught him off guard and swamped the cockpit. At this point **Capt Butler** thought it wise to re-examine the chart. Thankfully the strategy worked and two yachts were overtaken as they wallowed in the strong tide. With some inspired spinnaker handling by **LCpl Ken Kendell** *Skirmisher* finished in second place, capping a memorable day. This was the first time that the Royal Signals had won the Army Championships (Halcyon Cup).

31 Sig Regt (V) Hammersmith

OFFICERS' MESS DINNER NIGHT

At the annual dinner night on 16 July a record may have been established in that there were no fewer than 10 Colonels/Lt Colonels present at the top table and included 4 previous COs. Many 'old boys' were there to dine with the CO **Lt Col Colin Stenning** before he reliquishes command in August.

L to R Back Row: Cols Jim Greenhill, Donald Crawford, Lt Cols Dick Mistlin and Conrad Graham
L to R Front Row: Lt Col Pip Quick, Col Peter Mather, Lt Cols Colin Stenning, Jimmy Peterson, John Brian and Col John Eversfield

CALM FENCE CAPERS

Annual camp in June this year saw the Regiment in NW Europe again on Ex Calm Fence. Many important visitors were received including the SOinC, (a previous CO), **Col Bev Austin** and **Lt Col Lionel French**, our CO designate. We had a good camp, our end-of-camp parties were also very good. The accompanying photos capture some of the lighter moments of camp.

Lt Jenny Hastings, Maj Mark 'BBQ' Zaremba-Tymienicki, and Brig Palmer Comd BRCZ listen while Capt Steve 'Whistler' Potter does his famous bird impressions

Maj Chris Mote *(right)*, Please Sir may I have some more?
Capt (QM) Tony Perkin *(left)*, More! Do you think I'm made of compo?

SSgt (SQMS) Dave Rayner making a butty and WO2 (SSM) Peter Lovett nearly hiding behind a tree for a drag

Pte Donna Dawson and Sig Adrian Wall-Hays watch swiss-roll-making-in-the-field demo by Capt John Ruske and SSgt Eddie Gallacher

Gen Kurt Enzenberger ACOS, CISD-SHAPE shrugs his shoulders in disbelief as WO2 (FofS) Ray White tells him a whopper

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

FOCUS ON 52 (LOWLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
PERSONALITIES

OC Maj	**Allan Lapsley**
PSAO	**Capt 'Nick' Nicholas**
2IC	**Capt Ann Sweeney**
OC Mould Tp	**Capt David Harvey**
OC Bde Tp	**Lt Fiona Farquharson**
OC TAOR Tp	**2Lt Roddy Sutherland**
SSM	**WO2 Derek Bowstead**
SQMS	**SSgt Tom Padden BEM**
PSI	**SSgt Chris Calow**

After many years of dutiful—if not erratic—service we can finally say 'goodbye' to the Conrad I system and 'hello' to the Conrad II system. Ex Tartan Trot was our first exercise in which we deployed in our new role. There was great enthusiasm as the detachments set out for their locations.

BDE TP AND SHQ
The accommodation/admin area turned out to be a totally dilapidated and rather dirty MT shed, however after **Q Padden** and his admin team had gone to work on it, it would have put the Cafe Royal to shame (well almost!). After the resident infantry TA Unit was 'turned out' into the wilds of Barrybuddon, we commandeered their TAC and had a successful communication exercise. The participation of the RM detachment added some 'interest' to our exercise.

TAOR TP
TAOR Tp deployed to their various locations and encountered a variety of experiences.

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
It was suggested by **Sgt Keith Anderson** that in view of the limited sleeping and working areas allocated to his detachment, that in future it should consist only of midgets. In spite of this they had an enjoyable exercise.

S STRATHCLYDE
On the other hand **Cpl Garland**'s detachment was very happy with its locations and found the exercise both beneficial and enjoyable, so much so they have made reservations to return next year for a week's holiday. (PS. A snooker table would go down very well.)

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS
Cpl Robb and his detachment headed east (where the wise men came from—and forgot to go back), and practised their communication together with some 'haute cuisine' and voted the exercise 'a success on a plate'.

N STRATHCLYDE
While on the subject of food (which seemed to come a close second to comms in this exercise) **Cpl McManus** praised the cooking done by the cooks of 2/52 together with the local Chinese takeaway. The exercise itself went well but a BT engineer attached would have come in handy.

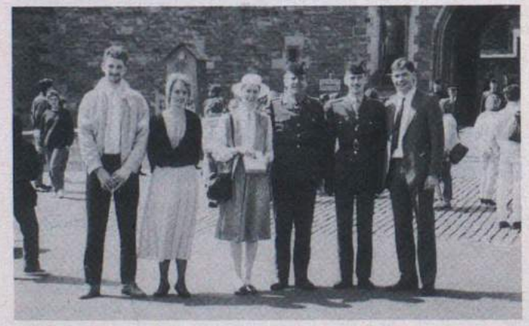
MOBILE COMMS
Due to circumstances the mobile communication troop was unable to reply. The breach was filled by members of HQ Sqn. A crash course in radio operating was given and members of the ACC, REME, MT, QM's Dept, RAPC, Mess Stewards and Uncle Tom Cobley and all took to the hills and glens. Filled with confidence in their new found knowledge they proceeded to provide the mobile communications for Ex Tartan Trot and didn't they do well!

MOULD TP
An extremely pleasant and equally hard working exercise was had by the members, they went in search of good communications—and found them—in Galloway.

FAREWELL
It is with great sadness and heavy hearts we say 'goodbye' to our PSI, **SSgt Chris** 'Aye that'll be right' **Calow**. His contribution to this squadron has been immeasurable and his relentless wit has kept us amused throughout work, rest and play. We wish him and **Ann** all the best in his new posting as RQMS (Tech) at 4 Div Sig Regt.

SSgt Calow and his wife at his farewell function—where he was presented with a Silver Puma

CONGRATULATIONS
SSgt Tom Padden was presented with his BEM by GOC Scotland **Lt Gen Sir John MacMillan KCB CBE**, at Edinburgh Castle on 10 May 1988. **Tom, Vera** and family held a party at Jardine Street for all friends and colleagues on the afternoon of the investiture.



SSgt Padden at his investiture at Edinburgh Castle. With him are his family and OC 52 Sqn

WELCOME
We welcome our new PSI **SSgt John Lamb** who comes to us from 206 Sig Sqn. We hope he will enjoy his tour with us.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

Tuesday 7 June saw the start of this year's Calm Fence Exercise with **Capt (QM) Bob Fortune** and **WO2 (RQMS) Huggy Huggins** leading the way with the Advance Party of forty five and 27 vehicles.
As is customary, they all moved to Olen Camp in Belgium to set up a base camp for the Regiment.
The Main Party moved in two phases, phase one being the Sea Party which travelled from Hull to Zeebrugge on Saturday 11 June and phase two being the Air Party which travelled from Speke to Dusseldorf Airport on Sunday 12 June.
The Regiment then came together at Zutendaal which was used as a staging area.
Ex Calm Fence is a bi-annual exercise which practises the Regiment's role of supporting 11 Sig Bde (V) in carrying out their role.
The Regiment's task is in the area of the Mosel where it is responsible for providing an Area Communications Network.
On 15 June **Maj Gen C. T. Shortis CBE**, GOC NW District visited elements of the Regiment in their locations.
The GOC was met by the CO **Lt Col David Gardiner** and given a tour of the Regiment's communication elements, accompanied by the TA Colonel NW District, **Col W. M. Elder TD ADC DL.**

The GOC North West District discussing the menu with LCpl Tony Smith, ACC 80 Sig Sqn, Chester during Ex Calm Fence

Further visits were received between 16 and 20 June from officers of HQ Centag and the Regiment's Hon Col, **Col J. Greenhill TD**.
The Signal Officer-in-Chief **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** visited the exercise on 20 June and met members of the Regiment from all squadrons.
Thursday 23 June was the traditional TA rest day, when volunteers were able to visit local areas.
On Saturday 25 June everyone returned to their respective TA centres in Liverpool, Manchester and Chester having experienced a hard but satisfying two weeks exercise which has been judged a resounding success.

The SOinC inspecting the Node of 59 Sig Sqn Liverpool on Ex Calm Fence accompanied by *L to R:* Maj Mervin Deighton TD, OC 59 Sqn, Lt Col David Gardiner and Lt Neil Thomas. Hidden in the background is WO1 (RSM) Neil Brown

NIJMEGEN MARCHES 1988
Report from 59 Sig Sqn (Liverpool)

TEAM MEMBERS

Lt Neil Thomas	**LCpl Neil McHugh**
WO2 (SSM) Steve Donoughue	**LCpl Tommy Ryder**
SSgt Jim Forbes	**LCpl Billy Wardle**
SSgt John Waters	**Sig John Skyner**
Sgt Ted Littler	**Sig Eddie Owings**
Sgt Bill Thornley	

After nine months training, on weekdays, evenings and spare weekends the Nijmegen March Team from 59 Sig Sqn (V) set off from Liverpool on Saturday 16 July for Holland. They arrived at Heumenscord Camp during the early hours of Sunday to be faced by armed Dutch soldiers on the lookout for Irish terrorists. Once allowed in they were allocated a tent with two 2 Royal Wessex HSF.
would surprise them over the following days.
A day-and-a-half was spent in March preparation. The team attended the opening ceremony at the Goffert Stadium which in many respects rivalled that of the Olympic Games.
The many events included gymnastics, military bands, parachute displays and hot air balloons. This, including the March, was organised by the KNBLO (the Royal Netherlands League for Physical Culture).
Our team was entered for the Military Category No 4. This involved walking 40km a day for four days carrying 10kg. The training for this event was organised by **WO2 (SSM) Steve Donoughue** who was at Nijmegen for his third time; a man who knew no pain! It took his drive to get the team out of bed at 0300 hrs each morning for a breakfast of cheese and salami. The day's marching started around 0430 hrs with an early morning chorus of 'Hey ho! Captain Jack! A song which all grew to hate. The team was helped along by the high spirits of **SSgt Jim Forbes, Sgt Ted Littler, Sgt Bill Thornley** and **SSgt John Waters** whose saying of 'It can't be far now!' really cheered everyone. **LCpl Neil McHugh** developed a fine singing voice with the lyrics of 'She's the Lady in Red!' with **Sig John Skyner** providing encouragement.
As it turned out the first two days of the march proved to be the main hurdle. The team developed the method of getting from rest point to rest point. These were not put there without a reason. The march at this point was overwhelming, with soldiers from forty two nations taking part and all housed at the same camp. For some lads who have hardly been out of Liverpool this was an attraction in itself. This, however, did little to disguise the mileage they had to walk each day. The friendly advice of the British administrative staff provided more than basic support. They helped all teams to get around; a fact to remember for the future. Nothing was so sweet as the final march, up the road, back into Heumenscord Camp at the end of the second day. Straight into the International Beer Tent to the sounds of cheers and singing of 'When the Brits come Marching In' from the other British teams. Never has beer tasted so good!
The third day was nicknamed the 'day of the hills', and it was. Don't believe anyone who says 'Holland is flat!' This is when the marching songs come into their own to take your mind off the pain. Nijmegen will always remain a memory of singing, you need something at this stage to raise your spirits.

Finishing the third day of Nijmegen 59 Sig Sqn (Liverpool) team. *L to R:* SSM Donoghue, LCpl McHugh, Sig Owings, Skinner, Wallington, Sgt Thornley, SSgt Forbes, Sgt Littler, LCpls Ryder, Wardle and SSgt Waters

The fourth day dawned with the teams developing a swagger as they knew the march was nearly over. Part of this route went over a pontoon bridge at the town of Cujk. The technique was to get there after the bridge was built, a task which the team accomplished. The weather, which up to now had kept its' distance, opened with a rapid downpour. But at this stage nobody was going to quit. Outside Nijmegen at the final rest point the team donned their best marching dress, prior to parading through the town. To an outsider it appeared like VE Day with the bands, flags and overwhelming crowds. The constant cries from the children for souvenirs began to peter at this point, as the team had run out of them. Next year they'll take more with them.

When the memories of long dusty roads under a hot sun wane and those of pushing through the crowds of people taking part in the event, the team will start training for the next march. Tributes must be paid at this point to the care lavished upon the team by the British administrative staff, especially the medics who did an outstanding job of repairing people's feet. But the final tribute belongs to the Dutch who made this a memorable event with their friendliness.

PERMANENT STAFF ADVENTURE TRAINING

Members of the Permanent Staff led by the Training Major, **Maj Paul Gorford** took to the hills of the Lake District on 11 July 1988 for the annual Adventure Training Exercise High Peaks.

Having established themselves in the George Starkey Hut at Patterdale, they then proceeded to take part in numerous activities such as rock climbing, abseiling, water sports, hill walking and fishing. The fishing of course being an extra-mural activity for those incuring injuries on the other events. Needless to say the week was enjoyed by all and no injuries occurred, consequently the staple diet for the period was compo without fish.

NEWS FROM 80 SIGNAL SQUADRON CHESTER

The Chester Rotary Club Raft Race took place on the River Dee on Sunday 10 July and, as is customary, teams from 80 Sqn took up the challenge to paddle their way through a multitude of other rafts in aid of Polio Plus.

The build up to the event lead to a flurry of activity in attempts to construct an unsinkable raft, mishaps from previous years had taught them well remembered lessons with this year's motto being '80 will win'.

Two teams eventually met the deadline. The WRAC team called their raft 'Gilwern 90' and the team consisted of **Sgt Karen Reddy** (Captain), **Ptes Karen Moule, Karen Drew, Tracey Bird, Julie Ross** and **Ceri Pritchard**.

The second raft was called 'Jimmy One' and the team consisted of **OCdt Chris Pace** (Capt), **Cpls Colin Jones, Stuart Jones** and **Pte Burgess, Sig Tony Lavender, Pte Jane Jarvis** and **Miss Kerry Jones.**

With mud, soot, flour and other substances being thrown by the other competitors, both rafts made their way to the finish point. The girls team obviously had an advantage over the men either through technique, a better built raft or winking at the other male contestants on the way through (we will never know). In any event they finished a creditable eighth overall, which is no mean feat. 'Jimmy One's' team was still paddling!

Donations are still being collected and hopefully we will beat last year's target of £150. Well done everyone!

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

FOCUS ON 90 (NR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

OC	**Maj Phillip Walker**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Collins**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Keith Finch**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Carl Butler**
OC Oscar	**Capt Geoff Thirlwall**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Eddie Drake**
OC Juliet	**Lt Eric Harrison**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Alfred Fox**
OC Lima	**2Lt Thirl Duckworth**
Tp SSgt	**Sgt Jeff Ashton**
Kilo Tp SSgt	**Sgt Neil Goodman**

The wet summer months have been fruitful ones for members keen on having fun and learning all about our new Euromux equipment whilst being soaked to the skin. The Regimental Ops Cell sent us to the wettest, windiest sites overlooking Sheffield, where some members including **LCpl Jimmy Campbell** went hang gliding and **LCpl Harry Cutler** went mining with a Triffid. This was a very strenuous Brigade exercise in which we all learnt a lot.

Our OC sent us on hikes around North Yorkshire when we would have been drier water skiing—but nevertheless a good weekend. Climbing up Gordale Scar in flood was akin to a fully fledged attempt on Everest by the time that **Sig John Watson, Sig Ian Parker** and the remainder of the adventurers told their story in the JRC! The other great event—crossing a raging river (small stream) the romantic Cow Gate Beck, why did **LCpl Chris Hodgson** throw herself across and how did **Sgt Vic Cowell** come to send the CO up the wrong side of the stream, and so cause his driver to carry him across? The weekend was rounded off by **Cpl Dave Carsley** threading a 4 tonner through the eye of a needle and the MT Sgt, **Paul Caven** closing his eyes at the sight of it.

Congratulations to the following: **LCpls 'Gonza' Mitchinson, 'Skinny' Fraser, 'Granny' Nevins, Chris Hodgson, 'Pipe' Benton, Ian Ward, Chris Bell** and **Harry Cutler** on passing their Det Comds Course at 11 Sig Regt. To **Capt Geoff Thirlwall** and **Jane** on the birth of a baby girl **Sarah** (to keep him awake at night) to **Sgt Hugh Mulligan** on his return from his exchange visit to the USA.

'Venture into the Unknown'
SSgt Carl Butler supervising Recruit Selection at Catterick

LAD PREPARE FOR WARCOP CUP

The LAD is busy with its preparations for the Warcop Cup which takes place in October. It is a military skills competition for all TA workshops and LADs within NE/NW Districts.

A recent visit from the NE District Specialist Training Team gave us a useful weekend training in First Aid, the culmination of which was an exercise with casualty simulation. It is surprising how realistic some simulations can be. We did have a couple of cases, notably **Sgt Geoff Weller** and **Cpl Mick Queally** who needed remarkably little camouflage! The OC, **Maj Jim Storey** and **SSgt Mick Pape** led the teams of first aiders in making the TA Centre look like a sequel from MASH. Our next hurdle, in preparing for Warcop, is the radio training. We should not experience too much trouble in finding likely instructors for that!

EXERCISE HARD DRIVE

Ex Hard Drive was a military driving competition held in Scotland which attracted 140 entries, mainly from the RCT. The results have just arrived. The Regiment was first placed Royal Signals Team and produced the best prepared vehicles. Congratulations to: **LCpls Neil Williams, Kev Marshall, Simon Land** and **Sig Ian Stewart.**

SIGNAL TRAINING—CLEVELAND ACF ANNUAL CAMP

During the last week of July and the first week of August Cleveland Army Cadet Force held its annual camp at Halton training camp near Lancaster.

For the duration of the camp signal training was organised by **Sgt Derrick Thurley** assisted by **LCpl John Gardner** (1 Yorks) and attended by cadets of B Coy which includes both Royal Signals detachments.

During the training many of the cadets had the chance to operate equipment which ranged from an aged Racal RA17L receiver through to the Clansman series including the PRC349, PRC351, PRC320, VRC321 and the many accessories such as antennas, battery chargers and masts. As a result of the hard work and the enthusiasm of the cadets the following goals were achieved. **Cpl Grimwood** (Redcar Detachment) was presented with his Crossed Flags badge by the Cadet Commandant **Col A. W. Illingworth TD JP** and **Sgt Laurens, LCpl Couhig** and **Cadet Lloyd** were awarded the local classification of company signaller.

L to R: Cadets Lewis, Clarke, Sgt Laurens, LCpl O'Donnell, Cpl Grimwood and LCpl Couhig
In Front: Cadets Lloyd, Kay, Mackell, Schofield and LCpl Smurthwaite

LCpls O'Donnell and Couhig establishing communication to Halton camp from one of the Fells

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Our congratulations go to **2Lt David Watson** (90 Sig Sqn), **2Lt Nicky Read** (49 Sig Sqn) and **2Lt Rosemary Timms** (49 Sig Sqn) on successfully completing their commissioning courses at RMA Sandhurst.

We welcome **Lt Karen Metcalfe** who has joined 90 Sig Sqn from 67 Sig Sqn of 37 Sig Regt (V). Our new RSM **WO1 Colin Ager** has just arrived from Oxford UOTC—welcome to Brambles Farm.

PUTTING THE FUN BACK INTO TRAINING

One of the priorities set by **Maj Clare Pickles**, Sqn Comd of 49 Sig Sqn in Leeds was to put the fun back into TA training. Without the fun element, TA training becomes like a broken pencil (pointless). Together with her SSM **WO2 Mally Wilson** (pictured above, centre front), she is raising both the spirits and the attendance of the volunteer soldier.

In the photo is part of the Squadron which took part in adventurous training in the Peak District in July. The weekend was organised by the PSAO, **Capt Gordon Bonner** (centre, right). The activities included rock climbing, hill walking and abseiling. The fresh air, however, seemed to affect the Training Major, **Maj David Bannister,** or so the Squadron thought, when they saw him 'clucking like a chicken' in the local public house, much to the surprise of the locals there. Little did they know that this was a forfeit gained during the games night.

The Squadron is grateful to **WO2 (YofS) 'Taff' Watts** and his social conscience. We exercised this on Sunday 10 July when 15 teams entered the Oxenhope Straw Race, well organised by **SSgt 'Mick' Pollard**. This was a charitable event which involved carrying a 40lb bale of straw over a tough three mile uphill course, stopping for refreshments at five of the local hostelries. The Squadron expects to raise over £800 for charity from the event. A recruiting stand established along the course attracted a good deal of interest.

Also having fun this month is **Pte Suzanne Keenan** from the Squadron's detachment at Hull who is currently taking part in Operation Raleigh.

Recently returned from an attachment to America is **SSgt (FofS) Brian Pollard**. Newly appointed to the position of Foreman, **SSgt Pollard** spent two weeks attached to the National Guard.

Also pictured above are two newly promoted telemechs, **LCpl Parsons WRAC** (top row, left) and **LCpl Clarke** (centre row, fourth from left).

Finally a question posed by the Leeds based PSI **SSgt Bill Smith**:-

Q: How many RTgs does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Two. One to change the lightbulb and one to mix the Gin and Tonics.

One of the finest qualities of life is the ability to work hard and to play hard; this is certainly demonstrated by the members of 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V).

Cpl Paul Watkin (49 Sig Sqn) during a range day at Wathgill

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

It proved exceedingly difficult to find somebody willing to put pen to paper to write the notes for this issue—but they did manage to put the camera to the eye!

The main event on the Agenda has been Ex Calm Fence 1988 which was the Regiment's BAORs exercise. This was most successful if you were not a hayfever sufferer like the Training Major, **Maj David Elson**, the Yeoman **SSgt Chris Aslett** and **2Lt Julian Webb** to name but a few. Deep and meaningful discussions on the pros and cons of each anti hayfever drug were heard till late at night, **2Lt Beverley Hassal** found the best solution through wrapping herself in her sleeping bag permanently!

The other startling feature of the exercise was the number of visitors who arrived, just about everybody who was anybody came to visit! But that was great as the cooks excelled themselves and produced excellent meals on these days under the guidance of **WO2 Kearney** and his merry boys and girls.

The move back through Munster was uneventful as all professed themselves tired out—but one or two visits to the local nightspots were achieved and a parade to present **Capt Chris Cummings** from HQ Sqn with the Golden Blanket Award and 89 (Warwickshire) Sig Sqn with the efficiency trophy for the previous training year was arranged.

The move back via Rotterdam and Hull was smooth although the MTWO **WO1 Ian McSherry** was seen rushing around with Tac Signs in a bid to ensure that all personnel stopped at the POL point and then remembered to change the blue filters to the right side.

RSM **WO1 George Hedge** was on his last exercise in the Army and the Regiment offers him and his wife **Suzanne** the best of luck in civvy street. The Regiment welcomes the new RSM **WO1 Mike O'Hare**, the new Orderley Room Sergeant **Sgt Kate Williams** and **Sgt Graham Wolverson** who joins the Foreman, **WO2 (FofS) Tony Jacklin**'s team in the Tech Workshops. It is to be hoped that they will all enjoy their tour with the Regiment.

No *Wire* article would be complete without a focus on one of the Regiments Squadrons:

95 (SHROPSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
CATTERICK

A Squadron range weekend was held at Catterick ranges in July. A competition was held using SMG, LMG, SLR and 12 Bore Clay Pigeon shooting. The following Squadron members came first in the Team Competition: **Cpls Gary Strawson, Marcia Biggs, LCpl Kevin Groves** and **Pte Angie Batho**.

TELETHON 88

Squadron members helped raise funds with members of a local firm (Stretton Automatics) at Telford Town Park. Photograph shows **Cpl Phil Spiers** with members of Stretton Automatic handing over a cheque for £1,300 to **Leslie Crowther**.

Cpl Spiers and friends presenting a cheque to Leslie Crowther during the Telethon 1988

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Cpls Cindy Darlington** and **Fred Armstrong** who were promoted on camp. **Cpl Marcia Biggs** has been promoted in the Pay Corps. **Ptes Dianne Maddox** and **Ann Brook** have recently been promoted Lance Corporal. Special congratulations to **David Threadgold** on his recent commissioning.

CAPEL CURIG

The Squadron is away to Wales Leadership Training at Capel Curig where they are canoeing and walking to the top of Snowdon (no cheating on the Mountain Railway), it is only 3,955ft high.

Yankie Tp completed a successful camp despite Sgt Clive Wynstanley, Sig Craig Kinsey and LCpl Ian Magrath struggling to work out how a 12m mast was erected.
Left to Right: Sgt Clive Wynstanley, Sig Craig Kinsey and LCpl Ian Magrath

Two Xray Tp weddings occured in April—congratulations to the Darlingtons, Cindy and Mark, and the Jones, Linda and Garvin. We know who is going to wear the trousers—both girls outrank the lads.
Left to Right: Cpl Cindy Darlington and LCpl Mark Darlington

A selection of the WRAC personnel
Left to Right: LCpl Sue Kelly, Pte Angie Batho, LCpl Dianne Maddox and LCpl Ann Bode
Bottom Row: Pte Debbie Churms, Pte Lorraine (Big Ears) Ward, Pte June Blessley and Cpl Linda Forrester

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

COLCHESTER PARADE

Lt Col Chris Gale arrived at Colchester TAC expecting to meet **Brig Gordon**, Comd 12 Bde for a breakfast meeting during the Regimental exercise being held in the Colchester Area. When **Brig Gordon** failed to arrive, plans were made and flanked by **WO1 (RSM) Tom Taylor** and **WO1 (MTWO) Mick Moffatt, Col Gale** set off to visit an Area Message Centre at Roman Way Camp in Colchester.

At Roman Way Camp, to his astonishment, **Lt Col Gale** found the whole Regiment lined up, on parade, to wish him farewell on his completion of two years hard work commanding the Regiment.

In his landrover **Lt Col Gale** drove past the assembled ranks of men, women and vehicles taking the salute on his final parade as CO. On completion of the drive past the Regiment formed up in front of the vehicles for a photograph which was later framed and presented to the Colonel as a farewell gift.

Lt Col Gale, who is a chartered engineer when not serving with the TA, has been with the Regiment since 1966 and took command in 1985. He is due to take up a staff appointment with Eastern District in September.

Since his departure **Lt Col Gale** has been appointed an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List upon which all members of the Regiment send their congratulations.

45 (ESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

On 23 June **Maj Gen P. W. Graham CBE**, GOC Eastern District presented medals and awards to three members of the Squadron at a ceremony in the TA Centre in Colchester. **SSgt Philip Hunt** was awarded the British Empire Medal and the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal and he was also given a letter of congratulation from Her Majesty The Queen.

Sgt David Cheverton was awarded the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal and **Sgt Duggie Speller** was awared the Lord-Lieutenant of Essex Certificate of Meritorious Service. Following the parade **Maj Gen Graham** spoke to the recipients and their families over a drink in the mess.

The photographs show **SSgt Hunt** receiving the BEM and the three recipients from left to right **Sgt David Cheverton, SSgt Philip Hunt** and **Sgt Duggie Speller**.

Ministry of Defence

TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR

Ashford, Kent

The Ministry of Defence has a vacancy for a Telecommunications Operator at Ashford Kent.

The duties involve the receipt and transmission of signal messages.

Typing skills of minimum 30wpm on entry, and 40wpm within 4 months of appointment are required. An aptitude test must be undertaken at interview.

Pay: £6,289 on entry, rising by annual increments to £8,153.

If you will shortly be completing your service you are likely to be ideally suited so for further details and an application form, please contact:

Mrs C. Perry, Ministry of Defence, Area Civilian Staff Manager, Napier Barracks, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3HB.

The MOD is an equal opportunities employer.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

EXERCISE SUMMER SOLSTICE

At mid summer on the Sennybridge Training Area, teams from all Squadrons of the Regiment took part in what has now become our annual military training exercise—Ex Summer Solstice. This year it consisted of 36 hours of non-stop activity for teams of 10 in all aspects of military skills ending with a gruelling run through the assault course. The Bde Comd, **Brig JOC Alexander OBE**, joined us for the final stages and presented the prizes to the winning Squadron—43 (Wessex) Sig Sqn and the winning section from the Stourbridge based TAOR Troop of 67 (QOWWY) Sig Sqn—the Section Leader was **SSgt Mal Cooper**.

The summer of 1988 has also seen several members of the Regiment successful on various training courses. Amongst these were **LCpl Nigel Morecroft**, the CO's driver, who gained an A grading on his Combat Drivers upgrading course, and **LCpl Rees** of 53 Sqn who was best student on his Royal Signals TA Detachment Commanders Course.

Cpls Brian Parker and 'Soupy' Brown being guided aboard by the Helicopter Crewman on Ex Watchful Wyvern

Photo courtesy Frank Taylor, Newport, Isle of Wight

'Now I see the light at the end of the tunnel'
Sig Andy Mackay of 57 Sig Sqn (V) emerges from an obstacle during Ex Summer Solstice

Cpl Nick Porter splashes through on Ex Summer Solstice

'The beach is nice but I wish it was a bit sunnier'
Sgts Weaver and Krikorian of 67 (QOWWY) Sig Sqn (V) take a well earned break during Ex Summer Solstice

'Three Men in a Boat'
In the midst of a hot, dry summer Lt John Crackett *(left)*, WO1 (YofS) Bob Parry *(centre)* and WO2 Glyn Nash *(right)* take no chances. During a break on the Sennybridge Training area they intend to float home if the heavens do open and the floods come. The real mystery however is—who provided the Chinese takeaway?

LCpl Maxine Taylor takes a breather on Ex Summer Solstice

21st BIRTHDAY

The annual Officers Cocktail Party on 21 May was a huge success. Hosted by the Hon Col **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB** and the Commanding Officer our guests from the West Country, Wales and the West Midlands helped us celebrate the first 21 years of our existence. The Commanding Officer and Second in Command **Maj Norman Harvey** were seen comparing notes with the first Commanding Officer **Col Freddie Ramsbotham**, second from the left in the picture and his Second in Command **Maj Harry Robin**, extreme left. No doubt about the level of Regimental Spirit.

Left to Right: Mrs Anne Sprackling, Maj Gen A. Yeoman and Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling

NEWS FROM 43 (WESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The past six months has been full of splendid achievements collective, individual and social for the Squadron.

Collectively we have become Champion Squadron for the second successive year, were awarded the Commanding Officer's Stick for winning his Annual Test Ex Summer Solstice 4 and we took most of the Cups and the overall Championship Shield at the Regimental SAM. Our small-bore team was third in the Clinch Cup Competition and our Orienteers led by **LCpl June Woolley** and **Sgt Vince Mann** gained second place (Women's team) and third place (Men's team) in the Wales/Western/South-West District's Championships.

Individually our list of achievements includes successes by our Sailors who have competed from the West Indies, where **Cpl Sandra Gardiner** and **LCpl Sue Palfrey** took part in Ex Caribbean Venture, to the Baltic where **Capt Rosemary Tuhey** was a member of the crew of 'British Soldier' in the International race from Copenhagen to Helsinki during Ex Baltic Fair. **2Lt Gabriella Summers** represented the Squadron at the prestigious CIOR Congress (Confederation Interalliee Des Officiers De Reserve) in London, and **Ptes Susan Jeanes** and **Sally Durham** passed the District Potential Officer Assessment Board and now begin the arduous trek towards those coveted pips. Finally we congratulate **SSgt John Webb** and **Sgt Alan Dorritt** on being awarded Lord Lieutenant's Certificates for Meritorious Service.

Capt Rosemary Tuhey on board 'British Soldier' in Helsinki flanked by visiting Finnish Naval Officers

Socially our biggest event was our 21st Anniversary Dinner at Bridgwater attended by over 120 members of the Squadron and their partners. We were entertained during the Dinner by the Band of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and at the conclusion various presentations were made by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Jonathan Cox**. Perhaps the most unusual was the presentation of the Territorial Efficiency Medal to former Corporal **Margaret Cranmer**, 14 years too late! The reason for the delay was explained in a previous article.

EXERCISE SUMMER SOLSTICE 4

This year's exercise was held at Senneybridge Training Area in Wales. The competition was very fierce over a tough course and 67 Sqn again produced the winning Section, but 43 Sqn whose Section gained second, third and a nail-biting fifth equal position finally emerged as the Champions. Much of the credit for 42 Sqn's success this year must go to **SSgt Ray Cardwell** who organised their preparatory training.

43 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

On Saturday 9 July **Sig Timothy Cox**, who recently joined the Squadron from 67 Sqn, married **LCpl Lynne Brailey** at Exeter, we wish them all good fortune and are very pleased that they will both be remaining with CMHQ Tp. Saturday 30 July saw the retirement of our PSAO **Capt Norman Salmon**. In his place we are pleased to welcome **Capt Peter Clarke** breathless from BAOR. We all wonder whether he will be able to compete with the quantity and quality of his predecessor's 'Hawaiian' Disco Shirts?

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

21 YEARS OLD

On 4 June the Regiment celebrated its 21st Anniversary with a display by the Lancastrian Brigade Band and Corps of Drums, the Retreat Ceremony by the Band of 34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) and appropriate celebrations by the three Regimental messes.

38 Sig Regt (V) was formed in 1967. Its volunteer soldiers came largely from 46 Sig Regt (TA) in Derby, 64 Sig Regt (TA) in Sheffield and 337 Sig Sqn (TA) in Nottingham. In 1969 93 Sig Sqn was raised in Blackburn from a cadre of the 4th Bn. The East Lancashire Regt (TA). The members of 46 and 64 Sig Sqn's came from their predecessor TA Regiments, 87 and 93 Sqn's formed from AER (Army Emergency Reserve) units.

The celebrations began with the Officers' Mess Cocktail Party at RHQ in Sheffield, when the Regimental Officers entertained military, civic and civilian guests. Amongst the guests were: Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock**; Comd 2 Bde, **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE**; Deputy Comd 2 Inf Div, **Brig Wells**; Comd Trg Bde Catterick, **Brig Eastburn**; Hon Colonel, **Col Alan Hawksworth**; Chairman and Secretary of the three TAVRAs in whose areas the Regiment's Squadrons are based. Former CO's of 38 Sig Regt and CO's of neighbouring units were well represented and we were pleased to see many friends of the Regiment who had served with or alongside our unit. Mayors of Rotherham, Chesterfield, Derby and Dronfield headed the list of many representatives of local civic and civilian institutions including the Bishop of Hallam, the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, the County Fire Officer and representatives of local industry.

The Lancastrian Brigade Band and Corps of Drums was formed in 1979 by **Mr Geoff Hargreaves** of Preston to keep alive the traditions of its name and the spirit of a number of old County Regiments. During the Cocktail Party they entertained the guests to a superb collection of chamber music from the minstrel gallery and led the singing of 'Happy Birthday' as the CO **Lt Col Steve Coltman** and the 1967 CO **Col John Francis** joined forces to 'cut the cake' with the ceremonial sword. The cake, beautifully decorated in Corps colours and sporting a silver 'Jimmy' was made by **WO2 Joe Hodgson** whose team manufactured and served the cocktails while **WO2 Paddy Connors** supervised the food production.

Lancastrian Brigade Band and Corps of Drums performing at the Birthday Celebrations

(Left to Right) Master of Signals with WO2 (SSM) Dave Warburton, WO1 (RSM) Don McLennan and Sgt Eric Russell

Is the CO protecting his beer? Lt Col Steve Coltman in conversation with WO1 Derreck Wilkinson at the Sergeants' Mess function

The rains came just as the Officers' Mess was to join the assembled Regiment and families to watch the marching displays and it seemed that the days of preparation and the hours spent in erecting stands would be to no avail. A rapid change of plans, and an even more rapid clearing of glasses and tables from the drill hall transformed it into an area for a most impressive static display by the Corps of Drums—but at the last moment just as the Band of 34 Sig Regt were to perform inside, the skies cleared, the Regimental guests and families were ushered outside and the Retreat Ceremony began, a fitting climax to the formal celebrations. **Maj Gen Badcock** took the salute at the end of a most impressive display while the PMC **Maj Terry Phillips** and RSM **WO1 Don McLennan** finally relaxed following their display of nervous energy watching the skies for changes in the weather.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess then gathered in a marquee to enjoy their own celebrations of the Regiment's birthday, entertaining the Master of Signals, Comd 2 Bde, the CO **Lt Col Steve Coltman** and past RSMs and Mess members. The Junior ranks had a barbecue and it was clear that the Regiment can be reported as being in fine fettle as it enters its 'mature' years.

The following day 17 members of the Regiment out of the 19 still serving who had been serving in 1967 on its formation, met together with their wives and guests for a celebration luncheon.

HONOUR FOR PSAO

Capt Ted Hall, 18 years as PSAO at 93 Sig Sqn (Blackburn) was honoured by the award of an MBE in the Birthday Honours List. it is with great pride and satisfaction that we report on the career of this jovial, most loyal and facinating 'character' of the Regiment. He joined the Royal Ulster Rifles at the age of 17 in 1946 as a Bugler and was posted to 2 Bn Royal Ulster Rifles in 1947. After two years serving in Sumatra and Palestine during the period of the Israeli declaration of Independence he returned to Ulster with his Battalion to take part in the 'amalgamation parade' as it, along with other second Battalions were disbanded. **Ted** then transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals and was posted to 1 Div Sig Regt serving in the Middle East until 1952 when he became one of two wireless operators on the staff of **Field Marshal Montgomery**. At the end of that tour in 1953, he moved to the Tripoli District Sig Sqn and then to British Honduras. By this time he had reached the rank of Sergeant. Following a spell with Northern Command Sig Regt in York and Harrogate he began his connection with the TA as a Sergeant PSI with 44 Home Counties Sig Regt (TA).

After a seven year posting first in BAOR and then the Far East, by which time he had become WO2 (SSM) at the Signal Training Centre (Far East), he renewed his TA connection as WO2 (PSI) with 319 Guards Bde Sig Sqn (TA) in Rugby, which the following year (1967) on reorganisation became 89 Sig Sqn of 35 (SM) Sig Regt (TA). By this time he was WO1. On retirement from regular service he continued his connections with the TA being appointed as NRPS Captain with 93 Sig Sqn where for the past 18 years he has given devoted and loyal service. He is the holder of the GSM with Clasps Palestine and Malaya and the GSM (1962) with Clasps Borneo and Malay Peninsula. He is a keen sailor owning a 27ft McWester, sailing out of Glasson Dock (Lancs) and regularly sails the Irish Sea to Isle of Man, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. He has sailed for the Corps in the Far East and represented the Army in the Middle East against the French Army at Rugby.

Congratulations from all past and present members of 38 Sig Regt on this honour.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **WO2 (LWO1) Derreck Wilkinson** on his promotion to WO1 and to **Pte Dawn Rainbow** (46 Sig Sqn) on her appointment as OCdt.

'TEAM MATE'

The annual inter-Squadron military skills weekend was held at Leek Training Area 25-26 June. It consisted of 20 stands, many of which reflected the 'guile' of Training Major, **Maj David Podevin** and **WO1 (RSM) Don McLennan** but all proved of immense interest with a judicious mixture of physical and mental activities. The day was beautiful and the 10 mile cross country navigation course gave a fine test of map reading. At the end of a very taxing day there was still a tremendous amount of energy left to consume the beer and sausages!

RESULTS

Best Squadron	46
Best Team	HQ 'A'
Best Male	**Cpl Fletcher** (HQ A)
Best Female	**Cpl Knowles** (93)
Best Y/S	**Sig Holmes** (93)

46 SQUADRON (The Winning Squadron)

The four teams from 46 Sqn were led by **Capt Jim Crotty, 2Lt Vanda Leary, Sgt Phil Mellor** and **SSgt Bob Warden** after an early breakfast the four teams set off for their start points. The gruelling competition was spread over the Leek Training Area and the 'stands' varied from written tests to military skills and command tasks testing initiative, endurance and military knowlegde. A splendid effort by all our four teams led to 46 Sig Sqn being awarded the Regimental 'Team Mate' Trophy and the team led by **2Lt Vanda Leary** came second overall in the Regiment.

The evening ended with a superb barbecue cooked by OC 46 Sqn **Maj David Etherton** and the Admin Officer **Capt Cliff Webb**.

PSAO Capt Cliff Webb, WO2 (SSM) Terry Hanman and Pte Harrison preparing tea? at base camp

2Lt Vanda Leary and the 46 Sqn team

Capt Mike Philip receiving the 'Best Team' trophy for HQ Sqn from Lt Col Steve Coltman

Maj David Etherton being presented with the trophy for winning Squadron (46) by the CO Lt Col Steve Coltman

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

In the last few months there have been many changes within the Regiment, with a number of arrivals, departures, and the official opening of our new TA Centre in Dundee.

On 2 July 1988, our Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO** opened 2 Sqn's new TA Centre. The visit was conducted by the Lord Provost of Dundee, who was accompanied by our new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Mervyn Sharp TD**.

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

The Regimental Shooting Team participated in the London District Skill at Arms Meeting over the weekend 30 April-1 May. The Regiment mustered 14 participants, from which a team of 8 was entered for the team competition under the captaincy of **WO2 Wheatley**. Everyone, however, had the opportunity to shoot both SLR and SMG, with a few luckier ones shooting the LMG as well.

The team was accommodated with the HAC, in their hut at Bisley. With the HAC also in residence, a plot was hatched by them to nobble our merry band by feeding them excessive quantities of alcohol. It nearly worked!

However, despite everything, the standard of shooting was high, particularly considering that the team suffered from a lack of range work prior to the competition. The weather also did not help as it continued to vary from being blazing hot, to pouring with rain.

Despite many of the background difficulties, the Regiment did surprisingly well, with a number of individual successes. **Sig Steve Bland** won a bronze medal for coming third in the Young Soldier aggregate (not bad considering his advanced years!). **Pte Grace Pastore** came sixth in the WRAC competition, as well as sweeping the board in the sweepstake shoot. **WO2 Phil Atherton** won a cup and gold medal for winning the PSI's competition (well, only two entered!). **Lt Michael White** beat 85 other competitors to win the moving target competition, and won absolutely nothing (well rank has its pitfalls as well!).

The team did very well and came seventh out of eleven. Unfortunately we narrowly missed a place at Bisley for the Army Championships, only the top six qualified. Next year, however, we hope to see, with the benefit of more practice, the Team representing the Regiment at Bisley.

Regimental Shooting Team: *(Left to Right, rear to front):* Sig Robinson, Sig Bland, Lt Gregory, WO2 Wheatley, WO2 Atherton, Sig Hedges, LCpl Thomas, Sig Byrne, Sig Blackwell, Sig Misell, LCpl Leech, Lt White, LCpl Hack and Pte Pastore

COMINGS AND GOINGS

There have been a few changes in personnel over the past few months. **Lt Col Hugh Grenville-Jones** handed over command of the Regiment to **Lt Col Mervyn Sharp**, who was formerly the Regimental 2IC. **Lt Col Grenville-Jones** has now moved on to RSRE, and we wish him all the best in his new appointment.

Farewells have also been made to **WO2 (RQMS) Phil Atherton** and **SSgt Geoff Oates** both of whom have now left the colours. **Phil Atherton** has moved on from 39 to 40 Sig Regt (V) to become one of their NRPS, and **Geoff Oates** has joined **WO2 Joan Wilmot**'s husband, **Ian**, in starting their own business. We wish all three every success in their new careers. On the 'pending' departures front, we will shortly be saying goodbye to **Col Nigel Althouse**, our Honorary Colonel, to **Maj Isobel Gordon**, OC 2 Sqn and, **Capt John Garratt**, PSO 3 Sqn. From London the following personnel are also moving on to pastures new: **WO1 (RSM) Chris Stone, WO2 Joan Wilmot, SSgt Jim Harley** and **LCpl Phil Morris**. We also hope that they will enjoy their new postings, careers or retirements.

On the arrivals front we welcome **WO2 Lee Hodds** who has joined the QM, **Maj Harry Meekins**, as our RQ, **SSgt (YofS) John Walesby** who is our new Yeoman (Training), and **LCpl Tony Rutter**, the CO's Driver.

On the 'pending' front news has also reached us that **Maj Frank Smith**, currently at 8 Sig Regt is to join us as the new OC 2 Sqn, and that **WO2 Bob Wood** is to become our new RSM (WO1). We hope that all will enjoy their time with the Regiment.

1 SQUADRON

Much has happened within the London Squadron since our last item within *The Wire*.

In March the Squadron participated in Ex Farne Deep, one of the many Regimental overseas exercises. Although we didn't get the chance to travel, the Squadron deployed the Commcen and sent one of the Radio Detachments to the Bletchley Troop TAC.

As always the weekend was a communication success, despite a number of little hiccups with equipment and changing procedures. For the first time the Paras tabbed into location, a distance of some six miles, having been first dropped off in the wilds. The rest opted for the sensible approach, and let the landrovers, minibus and four tonners take the strain.

The Commcen, under the command of **Lt Mark Bretton** and **SSgt Veronica Grace**, with **Capt Malcolm Bryan** as CDSO, worked in top gear, trying to maintain traffic supplies to the many different radio links emanating from the Tape Relay Centres. As always the out Dets wanted more traffic, in many cases forgetting that whilst they provide messages for one link, the commcen has considerably more to deal with.

Ex Farne Deep: LCpl Glen Perry and Sig Steve Bland

Ex Farne Deep: Sig Dave Hedges and LCpl Julie Roylance on set and in comms

Meanwhile, the Bravo Tp Detachment under the command of **Sgt Janet Flowers**, with **Lt Paul Willmott** providing the Staff Cell, struggled to gain contact with TRC 'A' some 21 miles away. For some reason contact couldn't be made. However, communications to TRC 'B' in Scotland, some 450 miles away, proved no trouble, and much traffic was passed. This Det also had the benefit of using one of our specialist radios, and this also proved to be a successful link, with valuable training being gained by the operators.

MILITARY TRAINING

May and June saw the Squadron embark on a rather intensive period of Military Training, with two successive weekends. The first was a deviation on the old Regimental Ex Fisher Bank. All personnel were broken up into section groups, under the command of one of the JNCOs, and undertook a series of stands each related to a specific military skill.

The weekend was devoted to practical work. The First Aid stand was particularly gruesome, with suitably made up casualties (drawn from Recruit Tp), who had supposedly been attacked by hand grenades. NBC saw us not just go through normal IA and Decontamination drills, but also included instruction in the RVD and other more sophisticated detectors. The weapons stand included an introduction to the SA80, and apart from stands in minor tactics, many also dug their first trenches!

The Saturday night included a full scale Platoon attack onto an enemy position in an old ammunition bunker. The enemy was drawn from Recruit Tp, but unfortunately also included all the Squadron's Officers and SNCOs. All would have gone well, however, a rather over enthusiastic individual gave away the element of surprise by opening fire a little too soon, and instead hand to hand fighting predominated, with the defending forces, having the benefit of knowing the land, gaining a major victory.

With hit and run attacks taking place throughout the night, and the questioning and guarding of prisoners the enemy was stretched to the limits and a number of escape attempt were made. Special credit goes to **Pte Donna Rayment** who was the only one to get away, and also to **Pte Libby Foot** who would have got away if **Sgt Darryl Frost** hadn't been quite so swift and closed the blast door in her face.

Two weeks later, yet another weekend, but this time with a difference. Assistance was sought and provided by 21 SAS, and 5 Queens, both of whom provided specialist Instructors; training concentrated on minor tactics and combat survival. Saturday was spent learning field skills, section tactics and patrolling skills from the experts, all to be utilised in attacks on positions the following day.

One of the major aspects of the weekend was Combat Survival, and instruction was given on snaring and catching animals, edible vegetation, water sources, and survival kits. The weekend would not, however, have been complete without a lesson in preparing a rabbit for the pot.

On Sunday we formed up into a number of sections and advanced to contact. With a few grudges from the previous weekend to clear up the attack on the enemy was pushed home with much vigour.

On the military side the Squadron has also been providing assistance to other units within the London area. We have provided a number of section size groups to act as enemy forces for Platoon attacks. This has given us the opportunity to use the new SA80. The one advantage of these exercises has been to draw attention to the difficulties of defending even a small location and consequently we are now more aware of the problems and with previous training, more capable of looking after ourselves!

Military Training: Sig Orlando James receiving medical treatment for grenade injuries, at least he lived this time!

Situation Enemy Forces: *(Left to Right, rear to front):* Pte Donna Rayment, Lt Paul Willmott, Sig Steve Swainbank, Pte Jacqui Simpson, Sig Kevin Downer, Pte Sam Jones and Pte Lynda Walsh

1 SQUADRON COURT AND SOCIAL

We have had a number of changes within the Squadron lately, with the arrival of a number of new people, the departure of others and the marriage and engagement of yet more.

Lt Sam Luke and **Miss Sally Newcombe** were married on 11 June, and two weeks later on 26 June **Sig Dave Shelly** and **Pte Elaine Read** were also married. **Cpl Mark Lawrence** and **Pte Phillipa Rose** announced their engagement. We wish all three couples all the best for the future.

On the arrivals front we welcome **Capt Alex Leitch**, who joins us as our PSO having recently left the Regular Corps as a Major! We also welcome **Lt Michael White** and **Pte Donna Rayment** who have both transferred in from the RAOC (different units however). The former takes over as OC B Tp, whilst the later has joined the QMs Department. Welcome also to **LCpl Gillian Bowman** who has also joined the ranks of the TA, having recently completed her regular engagement.

On the farewell side, **Sgt Darryl** and **Cpl Linsay Frost** have both left, **LCpl Mike Seaman** has taken leave of absence whilst working in Holland for the Government and, **LCpl Bill Derks** has joined the Regular Army and is now training with the Parachute Regiment.

By the time *The Wire* is next published we will also have said farewell to our PSI, **Sgt Chris Marshall** (WRAC), who is off to join the Queen's Gurka Signals in Hong Kong. As her replacement **Sgt Mark Schofield** is moving to join us from 5 Sqn in Banbury. We hope that both will enjoy their new jobs.

On the successes side, **LCpl Tony Mather** completed his Detachment Commanders Course as best student, and **Pte Sam Jones** passed out of Guildford as best Recruit on 15 July. Meanwhile, on the Parachuting side **LCpl Colin Sene, Sig Eugene Gardner** and **Dave Lambert** completed their para courses with No 1 Parachute Training School, Brize Norton, and are now proudly wearing their wings.

And finally, a few changes in officer appointments have also occurred, with **Lt Sam Luke** taking over Alpha Tp (Commcen), **Lt Michael White** taking over Bravo Tp (Radio) and **Lt Mark Bretton** moving to RHQ as the MTO.

News from Squadrons

JCUFI
BFPO 655

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. C. T. Cuthbert**
2IC	**Flt Lt C. Taylor**
USM	**WO2 S. Hilton**
UQMS	**Sgt K. Bagshaw**
Chf Clk	**Cpl S. James**
Stores Acct	**LCpl P. Firth**
P&A Clk	**SACW S. J. Cornelius**

These notes are written by the newly arrived USM who is not impressed with Manning and Records diligence in realising that he had only completed half a tour last year when in the rank of Staff Sergeant. Thanks for the re-tour; it's just as bad the second time around.

RAM INN

The official opening of the RAM Inn, the JCUFI Bar, took place on 2 July. The Bar, situated in what used to be the Unit Store, would seem to be a popular idea with all members of the Unit. Much hard work has already gone into the decoration of the bar and those responsible are thanked.

FI 'CHRISTMAS' FUNCTION

The unit held a trial run in the bar when on 25 June, our inverted Christmas Day, we held a unit social. This event was well supported and everybody was impressed with the decorations (home made) and the two Christmas trees.

JOC RADIO

Following a large change over in May we say goodbye to all those who have left and hello to those FNG's (Falkland New Guys) who have replaced them.

There is currently feverish activity in the hut in preparation for FI Christmas 1988 on 25 June, with all the usual decorations. After a big thank you to **Cpl John 'No mail' Murray** for writing lots of letters we close by wishing all our readers a 'Merry FIXmas'.

Crawford managed a visit on board the ship for a couple of hours and after being well looked after and given a tour of the messes they then had to negotiate the rope ladder down the side of the ship to the landing craft with wobbly leg syndrome! **Cpl Steve Storey** had been getting close to nature with his cat training courses and his sheep rescue missions. Finally a farewell to **Sig Jim Watt** (Who?) and hello to **Sig Taff Jones** and his famous teddy AG, the gourmet cook Welshman.

SYSTEMS CONTROL

Systems is responsible for controlling all communication circuits within the Falklands and to the UK via Satellite and HF radio. To this end we work very closely with all three services, civilian staff at Cable and Wireless, and of course all the other sections within the troop and unit as a whole, without whose support our job would be far more difficult than it is.

Problems crop up in fits (sic!) and starts for the shifties, while the FofS continues to find 'projects' for the days'ies to sweat over and the Monarch techs just bimble along in their usual dream.

June was a busy time for systems as six out of eleven of us changed over (four in one week) and one more went at the beginning of July (not that I'm counting).

Chunter of the month must go to **Sgt Paul Hunt** who at 0630 hrs one morning, asked—

Paul: 'Where's the transport I'm late for shift?'.
Gas Boyle: 'But **Paul** it's only 0630 hrs'.
Paul: 'Yes I know I'm late'.
Gas: 'No **Paul** you come on shift at 1700 hrs, its only 0630 hrs now'.
Paul: 'Oh well! . . . I wanted breakfast anyway'.

Lastly the farewells and welcomes: Farewell to: **Cpls Matty Mathews, Dom McGrath, Sgts Grant Nicol, Paul Hunt, Gary Johnson, Gary Boyle** and **Chris Pederick**.

Welcome to: **Sgt Pete Taylor, Cpls Tony Pinsent, AJ Matless, Ian Outerson, Russ Batley, Davey Jones** and **John Spavins** . . . How many days? Not forgetting **Wingeing Deano Briers**.

LINE CONTROL

The JCUFI five-a-side competition took place in June. After the league section was complete there were four teams left to play the finals. In our semi-final, Line Control team: **Rob Carter, 'Scouse' Moriarty, John 'Woolfman' Brennan, Mac MacPherson, 'Evo' Evans** and **Sub**, in a more ways than one, **Paul 'Baby Mac' McKeown**, were to play 'C' Watch Commcen.

CHARLIE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Terry Spicer**
2IC	**WO2 (FofS) Mick Flaherty**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mitch Mitchell**

After much arrangement the Troop managed to get nearly everyone together for the above picture (note—the ones smiling are soon to depart!). It's a difficult task to write notes for the whole of Charlie Tp, so I've passed the buck to the heads of sheds, whose contributions follow. First of all though we say farewell to **Capt Paul Cross**, off to 14 Sig Regt, and hello to **Capt Terry Spicer**.

CAMPITO

Normal routine at Campito was broken up by HMS *Danae* anchoring at Ajax Bay for a night. **LCpl Chris Severs** and **Kev** The game was a hard fought match, which became evident when **'Mac' MacPherson** returned after the half time break wearing boxing gloves, Line Control ran out winners 9—3.

The final was another tough one against Transmitters, but Line Control scraped through by the odd goal, scoreline 8—3. Well done to the worthy winners.

DEPARTURES

Goodbye to: **Sgt Gary Gillings** (see you next tour), **LCpl Billy Atwell** and **Cpl Rob Carter**.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to: **LCpl Andy 'Kafa' Rushworth, Sig Stu Mackenzie** and **Sgt Paul Jennings**.

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(215 Sig Sqn)
Tidworth

COMINGS AND GOINGS

July saw several changes to the Squadron line up. **Capt Ray Papworth** finally relinquished his dubious title as the longest serving Squadron officer and returned home to Hereford just in time to miss Ex Bold Grouse. The Squadron's best wishes go with **Ray, Pat** and the boys. We welcome **Capt Dave Gilchrist** who takes over as the new Traffic Officer. Good luck to **Capt Nick Davies** who leaves the Training Wing to be replaced by **Capt Rick Mather**. We also say farewell at last to the long suffering **2Lt Scott Youngson** who goes to Blandford for his TC course, his farewell was almost as eventful as his arrival. After a tour of the Squadron in 'Thomas the Tank Engine', **Scott** arrived for his OC's interview chained for some reason to a Bedford Tyre. The ex 2IC C Tp was last heard of rattling his chains in Tedworth House looking for the keys. Finally the Squadron took on an international flavour recently with the attachment of two exchange officers, **Lt Bruno Courtois** of the French Army and **Capt Stig Olsen** of the Danish Army. The visits were useful from both a military and lingiustic point of view. Within days of **Lt Courtois'** arrival Bravo Tp were speaking fluent English with excellent French accents.

2Lt Scott Youngson leaves the Squadron courtesy of Thomas the Tank Engine

Bonjour—Lt Bruno Courtois is welcomed to the Squadron by LCpls 'Dinger' Bell and 'Stretch' Wilson

SHOOTING
TEAM

During 1988 the following personel represented the Squadron at shooting: **Capt Cousins, Lt Hooper, Sgt Owen, Cpl Ireland, LCpls Rowe, Lippe, Taylor, Senior, Sig Askin, Meehan** and **Wootley**.

The first shoot of the season was the District SAAM in which the Squadron had entered 2 five man teams. A busy period prior to the match meant entering teams that had very little training. A number of the firers had done no more than zero their weapons. However the training and experience gained in the previous season stood the team in good stead. Of the 30 minor unit teams entered the A Team came tenth, a creditable performance but not good enough to qualify for Bisley. To the teams delight (and some embarrassment) the B Team easily beat the A Team finishing in sixth place and qualifying for Bisley.

The next major event was the Corps SAAM on Bulford Ranges. **Sgt Owen** had returned from his RSSSC bringing some extra skill into the team. A bit of reorganising moved the best B Team shots into the A Team. Thus reinforced the Squadron entered the Corps SAAM knowing that it would not be embarrassed. At the same time, given the lack of practice, no one was expecting too much. The final two days of the match were the most important, certainly for all the rifle matches. When the dust settled at the end of the second day and the statistics had been completed the Squadron found itself in the lead in the Minor Units Championship. Once they were in the lead the team gained in confidence and improved throughout the week. The final tally of trophies were: The Henry Whitehead, The Whittaker, The Section Match, The Team Snap, The LMG Match, R Signals Minor Unit Champions, The Hutton Cup, The Hassel Trophy, The AER Cup, Trg Bde Assault Cup, The Singapore Cup and The Worrin Cup.

The season was completed by the RASAAM at Bisley where the Squadron was represented by: **Capt Cousins, Sgt Owen, Cpl Ireland, Sig Askin** and **Meehan**.

Trophies and medals at Bisley are hard to come by given that the team was firing against the best of the Army, many of whom were equiped with SA80. Despite the appalling weather conditions the team shot well finishing fifteenth in the Army Minor Unit Championship. **Capt Cousins** finished sixteenth in the pistol and was shortlisted for the Army and **Cpl Ireland** was selected to represent the Corps team in the National Rifle Association Meeting.

The team celebrate a productive day's shooting

EXERCISE WILTSHIRE PHEASANT

Ex Wiltshire Pheasant was a UKMF FTX which took place on Salisbury Plain Training Area from 29 June to 4 July 1988. All regular elements of the UKMF took part as well as many of the TA units in the orbat of the force. The Squadron provided its normal communications and administrative support for HQ Inf Bde and HQ FMA and in addition planned communications of Orange Forces and Umpire Organisation.

With over 6,000 troops on Salisbury Plain it immediately became apparent that lack of real estate would be the main problem. Some interesting locations followed, Echelon seemed slightly bemused by the 55km initial deployment, as their initial location bore a stunning resemblance to the MT Garages. A Troop soon realised the wisdom of this, stopped pouring 'Baby Bio' on their scrub wood to simulate overhead cover, and moved Main HQ into A Troop Garages. B Troop feeling that the grounds of Tidworth House Officers' Mess were a little too inhospitable, followed suit and for the first time Main and Step Up HQ co-located in the same garage. Inevitably the strain of such a deployment took its toll and individuals started to crack. **Sgt Mick Boyle** decided that things were too quiet and drove the Tac HQ CVRT into an artillery barrage (pull up a sandbag and the Tac crew will tell you all about it), **Sig Stu Bowskill** decided to liven up the Bde Comd net in his own special way and OC A Tp began to hallucinate—seeing Danish Generals everywhere.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

OC	**Maj C. L. G. Wright**
2IC	**Capt P. B. Knobel**
Ops Offr	**Capt C. D. McGrory**
Admin Offr	**Capt R. A. Hamilton**
Trg Offr	**Capt P. Gillespie**
QM	**Capt J. M. Kirkman**
OC A	**Capt S. R. Workman**
OC B	**Lt J. A. F. Smith**
FofS	**WO1 D. P. Jackson**
YofS	**WO2 S. Roden**

SHQ

Maj Gordon Shipley has left the Squadron after two and a half years in command. The first OC (of eight) in seven years to complete a full tour. Well done, well survived! It's a sad farewell to him and his wife, **Margaret**. In his time as OC he was able to resolve the Falklands losses and finally form an Airborne Signal Squadron we can all be proud of. For that and for two and a half years, thank you.

Maj Chris Wright has taken the reins. He prefers to refer to it as the 'tiller' and describes the usual new OC Sqn changes as 'fine tuning the helm!' Anyway he is in the chair but only officially here after handing over Wavell in HQ 1 (BR) Corps, leave in France, and refresher parachute course. It may interest him to know that we don't jump out of Dakotas anymore.

As we were absorbing the potential for disaster with OC, YofS, FofS, **Sgt Barnett** and **SSgt Cakebread** all leaving within months of each other we were informed that the Ops Offr, **Capt Colin McGrory** has been 'selected' to go to RMAS as a Platoon Commander and will need to go on JCSC with **Capt Peter Gillespie**. Horror of horrors **Capt Knobel** will have to do both 2IC and Ops Offr!

We welcome **SSgt Humble** to the Ops/Trg environment, don't worry, you don't have to remain AYofS for too long.

Sad farewells to the YofS, **WO2 Steve Roden**, likewise, farewell to **Sgt Barnett** (assistant YofS!) and **Sgt Sleeman** who leaves us for Civvy Street. All of you, good luck.

Congratulations to **Sgts Kurthausen, Allan** and **Owen** on their promotions. It is a pity no one told you how to avoid extras; enjoy block leave! Finally welcome back to **Cpl Hurford** from his attempt to transfer to RE. RE loss, our gain.

Maj Chris Wright *(right)* signs for the Squadron whilst Maj Gordon Shipley looks glazed!

Maj Gordon Shipley *(left)* says farewell to the Squadron. WO2 (YofS) Roden looks . . . on

A TROOP

OC Tp	**Capt S. R. Workman**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt J. G. Cakebread**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt P. D. Leyman**
	Sgt M. J. Harvey

Welcome to **Capt Scott Workman** as OC Tp. Finally, an OC Tp who will be here for longer than six months! Congrats on the degree.

Likewise, welcome to **LCpl Baker** and the brand new RTgs still to arrive from Harrogate. Here comes more for P Company Trg Wg! All our news is below.

B TROOP

OC Tp	**Lt J. A. F. Smith**
RLD1	**Sgt R. G. Nixon**
RLD2 Sgt	**Sgt G. K. Cripps**

Firstly, farewell to **SSgt Grant Humble** who moved into the Ops/Trg Cell; last seen shouting 'but I don't want to be acting Yeoman of Signals.' Thank you for a job well done. Welcome to **Cpl Kennedy** from 249 Sig Sqn, and best of luck on Pre Para and P Company.

As with Alpha Troop, we have been deeply involved in adventure training, military training and Ex Fast Buzzard. The training is detailed below, however Fast Buzzard was a first; it gave the DTgs something to do. Thank you DCOS, thank you.

M TROOP

OC Tp	**WO1 (FofS) D. P. Jackson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. S. Black**
IC Radio	**Sgt G. R. Crozier**
IC Te	**Sgt J. A. Lockert**
IC Power	**Cpl S. T. Archer**
IC Line	**Cpl D. L. Hindley**

To conform to SOinC PDs etc we changed our Troop name from TM to M (Mike). No big deal, but confusion all round. **Sgt Black** still keeps on walking out, looking for his old troop.

Like the rest of the Squadron M Troop enjoyed getting away from Aldershot. First we experienced the rigours of the military training phase of Ex Cutting Edge in Scotland and then moving south and soaking up the rays in Cornwall during the subsequent Adventurous Training. The Troop decided along with the rest of the Squadron that the award for sheer devotion to having a good time above and beyond the call of duty should to go **Sgt Dave King** of the Pay Office for his daring escape off stage from a fate better than death which resulted in a broken leg. Hard luck **Dave**.

Unfortunately not all of the Troop could enjoy Cornwall. **Cpl 'Jock' Robertson** was still in RAF Wroughton Hospital surrounded by doting nurses after suffering a bad landing on the Squadron jump onto Fox Covert. **Cpl Dave Chapman** had spent the time running up and down hills somewhere preparing himself for yet another form of selection—good luck in August. Then there was **LCpl Jerry McGovern** who thought it more important to get married rather than go adventurous in Cornwall. Anyway congratulations to you both and may all your troubles be little ones.

A good time was had by all and it was with heavy heart that the Troop returned to Aldershot to face the rigours of Airborne Forces weekend.

The Troop's main commitment to Airborne Forces Weekend was running the bar. An extremely heavy commitment indeed considering the nature of the weekend's entertainment! Under the watchful eye of **LCpl 'Ma' Baker** we all became apprentice barmen and although it was hard work with long hours—sob sob—and little thanks at the end we all felt that we had contributed to a very successful weekend.

Congratulations to **Cpl Dave Hindley** on his recent promotion.

Welcome to **Cpl Reid** TE Tech who is already fully in the fold as he arrived complete with a 'P' Company pass and set of wings.

Finally it is time to say farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Dave Jackson** on his retirement from the Army. Of his 22 years service **Dave** spent some nine of them with this unit. He first arrived in Aldershot in 1968 when we were 216 Parachute Signal Squadron and then left in 1973 after gaining his Class 1 qualification. He then returned to the Squadron in December 1984 where he has been ever since. He has seen four OCs and three RSMs pass during his time and basically he has become part of the woodwork and will of course be missed. **Dave** and his family have now settled in the local area; the Troop and the Squadron hope that we have not seen the last of him. **Dave** and family—good luck and keep in touch.

EXERCISE CUTTING EDGE PHASE 1

Report by Capt Pete Gillespie

Six months ago I thought I was going to Belize for a month of Jungle Warfare Training, three months ago I thought I was going to Cyprus on Exercise Lion Sun. On 1 June the Squadron headed north for Barry Buddon and Scotland armed with gum boots, southwesters and full oilskins. The Squadron was divided into two C130 Mk 3 Hercules for the flight up (no number 47 buses for us!) Seventy five members of the Squadron parachuted in along with ten American Signallers we picked up somewhere (courtesy of the AO, **Capt Dick Hamilton**) and **Cpl Dougie Craig**—who was on his way home for some leave before a six month tour of Northern Ireland with 1 Para. The remainder of the Squadron airlanded at RAF Leuchars some two hours later after their aircraft failed its MOT prior to take off.

Watching the jump were 10 very attractive young ladies from Manning and Records, oh, and two blokes as well (only kidding!) They had spent the day taking part in a variety of military training which was enjoyed as much by the instructors as by the recipients. Thanks for the card and photos team!

The RSM shows the girls from Manning and Records a thing or two

Back to the war story . . . A quick round robin of foreign weapon familiarisation was followed by a night out fighting midges.

The second day was spent learning how to make caches, revising the use of intravenous drips and stalking the RSM. **Sig Bohanna** was successful in reaching the RSM undetected but he did have to fully immerse himself in a river!

That night was spent putting out three caches per troop and watching an explosives demonstration organised by **Cpl Ray** of 9 Para Sqn RE. The next four days were spent with the Squadron divided into four troops, each doing a different activity each day:

NBC DAY

The NBC day orgainsed by **WO2 (RQMS) Arthur Hedgley** and **Sgt Bob Nixon** was looked on with some trepidation (I should explain that the weather was considerably hotter than the usual Scottish norm). However once the troops had revised basic drills, dug a full nuclear shelter and completed a chemical recce or two they actually warmed to the instruction. An extremely interesting and useful day was ended washing the MT's 4 ton fleet.

AMBUSH DAY

A day and night were spent on ambushes. We were lucky to have four NCOs from 3 Para led by the 2IC of the Brigade Pathfinder Platoon, **Lt 'Bobby' Thompson**. The day was spent going back to basics and then doing a series of day rehearsals using blanks. Some light relief was provided by the divers of HMS *Campbelltown* who took troops through beach landings using Gemini assault craft.

Orders were then given for a troop live firing ambush inserting at night by Geminis.

Some time was available for last minute rehearsals and then it was down to Dundee to board a Royal Naval Reserve motor launch. This took us to a point offshore from Barry Budden where we transferred into the Geminis. We moved off the beach to a troop RV where we made ready, the ambush was then set and we settled down to wait. The ambush was initiated by the terrorists falling foul of booby traps and a withering hail of lead was hurled at the targets. Smoke was laid and we bugged out, into the troop RV, check we're all there and then exit rapidly.

The boys hit the beach

RANGE DAY

The troop was split into two for the range day. Half went to the RSM and **Sgt Harvey** for a morning on Pistols and Heckler MP5s whilst the others headed for the CQB range with **SSgt Nielsen** and **SSgt Humble**. The pistol range proved to be an interesting and enjoyable period. As well as firing the pistol and MP5 we were taught how to turn and fire and the use of pistols with holsters. That enabled us to identify the cowboys in the Squadron!

The CQB range was the one that got the heart going! Runs were made down the CQB lanes using a variety of automatic and semi automatic weapons including the SA80. Having a Staff Sergeant behind you was a good incentive to getting weapon handling drills right.

The first part of the evening was spent running over one of the longest assault courses I've ever seen. The highlight of this particular period was the instruction on bayonet fighting courtesy of 3 Para and in particular **LCpl Chiswell**.

Once the dark had arrived we then fired a night shoot using a number of weapons and night surveillance aids.

FIRST AID, MAP READING

The fourth day was spent in the classroom (open air) and the night was spent on a short exercise finishing at approximately 0200 hrs.

The para element of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn prior to a Sqn jump

The map reading took the form of a lengthy test taken by **SSgt John Cakebread** with a full debrief afterwards. First aid was very capably run by **Cpl Cope** of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance and started with more jabbing of arms and revision on intravenous drips. This was followed by some basic instruction and practical work on sutures.

Once all the troops had completed the four days of instruction all that was left to do was clean up the camp, apply a last layer of our tan oil, and board the number 47 bus bound for Aldershot.

EXERCISE CUTTING EDGE PHASE 3

This was an adventurous training exercise held in the Plymouth area, based in Renney Lentney Camp (Where? That's what I said). The Squadron was divided into eight groups of approximately fifteen and in between runs ashore into Plymouth participated in the following activities, all in baking hot sunshine!

SQUADRON JUMP ONTO FOX COVERT DZ

The Sqn's Air Adjt, **Capt McGrory** had managed to hijack a Hercules C130 to allow all the Squadron Para trained men to jump into Salisbury Plain on Fox Covert DZ. The 'Fun' jump was orgainised by our resident Chalk Commander, **Sgt George Crozier**.

The pre-flight entertainment was provided by:

Capt Bruce Knobel trying to avoid a goodbye kiss from **Mrs Bruce Knobel** (Capt WRAC).

The RAF parachute jump instructor trying to avoid his goodbye kiss from **Sgt John Black**. (Captured on camera).

Our recently departed 'TA' officer **Lt Addison** being told yet again that he was not eligible to jump (will that man never listen).

After emplaning at Farnborough the in-flight entertainment was provided by:

The starboard stick, who thought that they were going to jump 20 minutes before the port stick.

LCpl 'JD' Hogg and **LCpl 'Jock' McGlashen** who were yet again having a race to see who could fill the sick bag first.

The pilot who thought he was supposed to fly under all the power lines.

On the first pass over the DZ **Sig 'Moby' Whale** decided that it is when the red light comes on that you jump and not the green as in the rest of British Airborne Forces. This resulted in **Moby, Cpl 'Smudge' Smith, LCpl 'Jake' Rosser** and **LCpl 'Jock' McGlashen** missing the DZ altogether and worrying a farmer on his tractor.

ATTENTION!

Will you be leaving the services within the next six months?

Do you wish to continue in the trade you have been trained for?

Would you like to work in Central London as a **Specialist Teleprinter Operator** with the Ministry of Defence?

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Applicants and both their parents must have been British Citizens/Subjects or Commonwealth Citizens since birth and if not actually both in the UK, must have been resident here for at least the last five years. In certain circumstances these conditions may be varied.

So don't delay—put your skills to work. For application forms and further details of pay and conditions please write to:-

Andrew Harvey, Ministry of Defence, CM(S)2 Gen lb, Room 642, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY or Telephone 01-430-6962

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The sporting 10-11 knot winds caused **Cpl 'Jock the Block' Robertson** to land badly and hurt his back. Perhaps he likes the morphine. One unusual occurrence that day was the appearance of the RSM **WO1 'Jess' Harper** and **SSgt 'Grant' Humble** on a parachuting parade.

Things we would like to see again:

A jump with no injuries.

Sgt 'Geordie' Harvey jump.

LCpl 'JD' Hogg fly without being sick.

Another Sqn photo in front of a Hercules/Dakota!!

The face of the civilian photographer when the doors open at 800ft and 135 knots.

Things we do not want to see again.

Sgt 'George' Crozier as Chalk Commander.

Sgt 'Taff' Leyman losing his container on Chalk Parade.

Sgt 'Bob' Sleeman with 'ripped and unserviceable' written on his parachute.

Cam Cream on a fun jump.

A grim looking Sig Lewis waiting for the RED light

LCpl Walker straining under the weight

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) BFPO 18

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj B. Robinson**
2IC	**Capt C. S. O'Nians (WRAC)**
SSM/Scribe	**WO2 A. W. Williams**
CC	**Any volunteers?**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome the following, and their families to the Squadron and wish them a pleasant stay: **SSgt (FofS) Gill, Sgts Dorian, Rogers, McDonald, Sig Bilcliffe, Cawthorne, Hunt** and **Radcliff.**

Sadly we have to bid farewell and good luck to: **SSgt (FofS) Peck, SSgt (SQMS) Forsyth, Sgts Gillard, O'Shea, Cpl Ballantyne, Sig Freeman** and **Wilkinson.**

EXERCISE PINK GIN

The DS stood in the shadows of Grobbendonk Training Area while the dipterous insects of the 'culicidae' family took their annual blood transfusion.

Yes, this was really 227 Sig Sqn on battle camp during the first week of June 1988. During this period the ARU was carried out by Comd (BR) Comm Z—**Brig The Hon N. C. L. Vivian,** who witnessed some of the training and spent a long time talking to the soldiers.

On the first day, an early start (0300 hrs), saw two sections of 21 junior ranks and 11 DS set off through the picturesque country side of Holland into Belgium. By mid-morning both sections were dug-in in their defensive areas, and by mid-afternoon the dreaded mosquitos had found both sections before the enemy had. H1-6840-99-220-1385 Fluid External Application apparently does not work with Belgian mosquitos.

The days went by and the nights were long, with temperatures reaching 28°C, with lack of sleep and a few injuries, mainly puffy eyes from the dreaded mozzie bites.

On the third morning, just before dawn, **Cpl 'Brad' Bradberry,** (REME), after many years service attached to the Royal Navy, and posted into the Squadron only days before the exercise, was being watched by the enemy crawling out of his defensive area with pink kleenex between his teeth only to be captured with his trousers down. **LCpl 'Bing' Crosbie,** whilst running away came face to face with the enemy and was left with the choice of either surrendering or jumping into the Albert Canal. No contest; surrender he did.

On Friday morning at first light a final company attack led by **Capt 'The Boss' Wallis** was to have been Endex, and there were welcome smiles on everyone's faces, but wait—the Welshman **(SSM Taff Williams)** had not finished yet; the troops were divided into four sections and sent over the assault course, finishing off with a river crossing during which **Cpl 'Joe' Tweedlie** found himself halfway across, his left hand gripping the safety rope like a vice, and his chin barely above water, screaming out 'but Sir, I cannot swim!'.

Many lessons were learnt in readiness for our International Five Nation Battle Camp in 1989.

VOLUNTEERS

After many years of haggling for a fire escape for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the Squadron, the annnual fire inspection (by the RAF) resulted in the obvious solution, to wit, installing a length of rope secured by 6in nails on the window frame, to be thrown down when brought into use!

Therefore the PMC of the day, **WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson,** was sent on a 'Supervisor Top Roping/Abseiling' Course to ensure that if the occasion arose, the PMC would be suitably qualified to supervise evacuation of the Mess. So, gentlemen of the Corps, especially WOs, ensure that you are top roping qualified if posted to 227 Sig Sqn.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **Cpls Perch** and **Brand** on their selection for promotion, and to **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Forsyth** and **Janet** on their recent marriage.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last entry we have held a most stupendous 'Summer Ball' in June, on board the *Ville-de-Liege* cruising down the River Maas. At first it was thought that the 'Orange Boys' (12 July) Parade had arrived early in Holland, but the Marechaussee Brigade (civilian police) told us that Holland had won the European Cup.

'TEAM TURTLE' SAIL TO VICTORY

The Squadron Windsurfers, 'Team Turtle', have just returned from the Dummer Sea, where they swept the board (excuse the pun) by winning the Royal Signals (BAOR) and the BFG Minor Units Championships. The team comprises **WO1 (RSM) John Mold, WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson, Sgt Andy Chalmers** and **LCpl Tony Smith** (not in picture). All sailed well in strong winds and cold conditions to win both competitions and add to their recent success in the RCZ Championships.

The Squadron, although land locked has good windsurfing locally on the River Maas, and at Roermond, and does much to encourage this active, exciting sport within the unit.

DS Staff, OC and visitors gasp in awe as Cpl Steve Kent transforms a load of twigs into an intelligent and clear briefing map

Cpl Kev Cotton demonstrates how to rid Grobbendonk of its mole problem

Seen here are members of 'Team Turtle', *L to R:* WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson, Sgt Andy Chalmers and WO1 (RSM) J. P. Mold

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

Chelsea Barracks are quiet. The Irish Guards are on block leave, and members of the Squadron who are in camp are hiding very effectively.

After the State Visit in July our smart ceremonial uniforms were put in 'mothballs' until the next known event in November. However, prior to doing this, we all paraded at a ridiculously early hour in the morning to have a photo taken!

Due to the operational role of the Squadron, Summer Camp was split into virtually two identical weeks. The permanent staff was ably let by **Capt Mike Dunn** with the help of **WO2 (SSM) Alan Culton**'s guiding hand and **SSgt Kate Woodcock**'s loyal support. The instructors for the two weeks were: **Cpl Stu Hamilton** (canoeing), **Bdr Tom Watson** from the RA Depot, Woolwich (TRA—week 1), **Cpl John Worley** from 11 Sig Regt (TRA—week 2) and **SSgt Woodcock** (windsurfing). The chef for the whole period was **LCpl Steve Campbell**, better known as 'Cookie', who was borrowed from the Irish Guards. But the most important person was **Cpl Ian Henshall**, who ran the bar!

The events went very smoothly, (most of the time). **LCpl Chris Lyons** excelled himself at top roping, **LCpl Sheldon Woodfine** brushed up on his chat up lines (which in overt ardour made up for what they lacked in subtlety), **LCpl Grant McNee** though generally taxing, enjoyed impersonating **'Roy Rogers'** (until he sustained an injury which taxed everyone else, and damaged his ego!) Out of all the events, the one which fired everyone's imagination least was the orienteering competition. However, one team surprised everyone by scoring an outstanding 195 out of 200 points, and received valuable Corps sweatshirts as a prize! Well done to **LCpl Kev Jones, Pte Helen Russell** and **Sig Graham Parkinson**. On the way back from the orienteering **Capt Mike Dunn** impressed everyone with his map reading expertise (oh no, not another short cut!) and would also like to thank the many farmers in the area for their assistance in rescuing 'bogged in' Landrovers.

On a more serious note, there were many who overcame genuine fears and phobias during our Summer Camp. They were our real successes. **Pte Sarah Thickett** and **LCpl Les Donno** deserve a mention for their efforts at top roping and abseiling and canoeing, respectively.

Having the night life of Scarborough so close by, meant that the evenings were just as active as the days. **LCpl Woodfine** dazzled the crowds with his Elvis impersonations, whilst others managed to get 'locked inside' pubs. This was all a matter of timing, as **Cpl Tracy Hurst** found out. She got it wrong one evening when she went to make a phone call, and got locked out!

Finally, we are grateful for the help and co-operation the Squadron received from all the permanent staff at Burniston Barracks.

The Squadron Ceremonial Team
Front Row (L to R): WO2 (RQMS) Hales, Capts Dunn, Crook, Maj Dick-Peter, WO2 (SSM) Culton, Capt (TOT) Howes and WO2 (YofS) Channing
Middle Row (L to R): Sig Crompton (motor cycle), LCpl Kirkpatrick, Cpls Rothwell, Gill, SSgt Baldry, Sgts Sheehan, Jackson, Robertson, Matthews, Cpl Hamilton, LCpls Lyons and Labram (motor cycle)
Back Row (L to R): Sig Flight, LCpls Woodfine, Jones, Bailwy, Sig Runchman, Webster, Nairn, Cpl Salisbury, LCpl Walker and Sig Brunt

SUMMER CAMP

For this year's Summer Camp we moved northwards to Burniston Barracks in Scarborough. A wide variety of physically arduous activities were undertaken and included windsurfing, canoeing, top roping and abseiling, and for some light relief there were opportunities for horse riding, fishing and golf.

Pte Kathryn Spruce bravely descends on her first ever abseil, coaxed down by Cpl John Worley

LONDON DISTRICT SWIMMING COMPETITION

On 15 June the London District Major and Minor units swimming competition took place at Chelsea Barracks. Under the eye of **Sgt Kev Moir** the Squadron team underwent arduous training every day for the weeks (or months) leading up to the competition.

There was only one other team competing in the minor units competition, the Royal School of Musicians, Kneller Hall. The musicians turned up with a strong team, and the four individual events were shared evenly as follows:

50m	Freestyle	2nd	**Sgt Steve Matthews**
50m	Breaststroke	1st	**Sgt Kev Moir**
50m	Backstroke	2nd	**Cpl Kev Malcolm** (4 CTT Hounslow)
100m	Freestyle	1st	**LCpl Sammy Anderson**

For the 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay our valiant swimmers: **Cpl 'Brummie' Seaton, Cpl Kev Salisbury, Sig Mark Benson** and **Sig 'Runch' Runchman** put up a brave fight, but the opponents were stronger. However, they were disqualified leaving us in the lead with everything to go for in the final event, the 4 x 50m Medley Relay. We had to win this in order to win the competition. We had a strong team of **Sgts Moir, Matthews, Cpl Malcolm** and **LCpl Anderson** to battle it out. Our swimmers led all the way and had created an impressive gap when **LCpl Anderson** touched home to victory. Well done, team, obviously all that training paid off!

The Victorious Swimming Team
Front Row (L to R): Sgts Matthews, Moir and Sig Runchman
Back Row (L to R): Sig Benson, Cpls Salisbury, Seaton, Sig Webster (reserve) and LCpl Anderson (absent: Cpl Malcolm)

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS/CONGRATULATORY

Farewell and good luck to the following who have left: **Sgt Angie Bailey** (on promotion) to 39 Sig Regt (V), **Cpl Stu Hamilton** to 4 Div Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Dusty' Miller** to 9 Sig Regt, **Pte Lynn Buckle** to Hong Kong and **Sig 'H' Aitchison** to 242 Sig Sqn. Best of luck in your new careers to the following who have gone to civvy street: **Sgt Al Smallwood** (after 22 year's service), **Cpl Steve James, LCpls Fred Kirkpatrick, Chris Lyons, Andy Walker** and **Sue Kilbride, Ptes Jo Petters** (now **Gray**), **Mandy Blackburn** (now **Walker**), **Linda Hatton** (now **Dunseith**) and **Tracy Turton**.

Welcome to our new Squadron members: **Sgt Debbie Wilkinson** (neé **Gosnell**) and congratulations on your recent marriage, **Cpl Les** and **Christine Donno, Cpl Graham Heal, LCpl Jes Horsby** and **Ptes Kay Durrant** and **Pauline McPhail**.

A number of happy events have recently occurred, most of them courtesy of Oscar Tp (the Squadron marriage bureau!) Congratulations to all the following newlyweds: **LCpl Andy Walker** and **Pte Mandy Blackburn** on 31 July, **LCpl Nicky Cole** and **Sgt Harry Humphries** on 6 August, **Pte Joe Petters** and **Mr Mark Gray** on 6 August, **Cpl Robbie Dunseith** and **Pte Linda Hatton** on 7 August and **LCpl Tony Lynch** and **Miss Julie Perrett** on 13 August.

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244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

244 Sig Sqn is an unusual unit and not least because it is directly descended from a unit formed on Marylebone Station in 1941 by a Gunner. The then **Lt Col McNeill** gave the vagrant unit the Red Hand as a means of identifying itself in its moves around the country. The unit went to North Africa, and as other Air Support Signal Units (ASSU) were formed the Red Hand spread from the desert across Europe.

We were lucky enough to have the founder of the 'Red Hand Gang' the now **Maj Gen J. M. McNeill CB CBE** together with a colleague from those early days, **Maj Roy Smith**, as guests at the Dinner Night which was part of the Squadron Reunion Weekend.

Other guests at the dinner traced the history of the Squadron from Germany through RAF Benson to its present home at RAF Brize Norton. The Corps Band provided the musical accompaniment to the tales of how it was.

The present OC, **Maj Symonds** spoke briefly at the end of the meal introducing the guest of honour, **Maj Gen McNeill**, who said a few words about the formative years of the unit. **Maj Smith** presented his history of Air Support Communications in the desert campaign. **Lt Col P. Spooner**, a former Squadron Commander and original instigator of the reunion proposed the toast to 244 Signal Squadron. This completed the formal part of the proceedings.

Meanwhile in the Squadron Bar/The Eagle an alternative reunion was being held.

The cricket match on the Saturday was blessed by good weather. It was plagued by new interpretations of antiquated laws. Despite this the Squadron team strode home to a resounding victory over the 'Old Boys'.

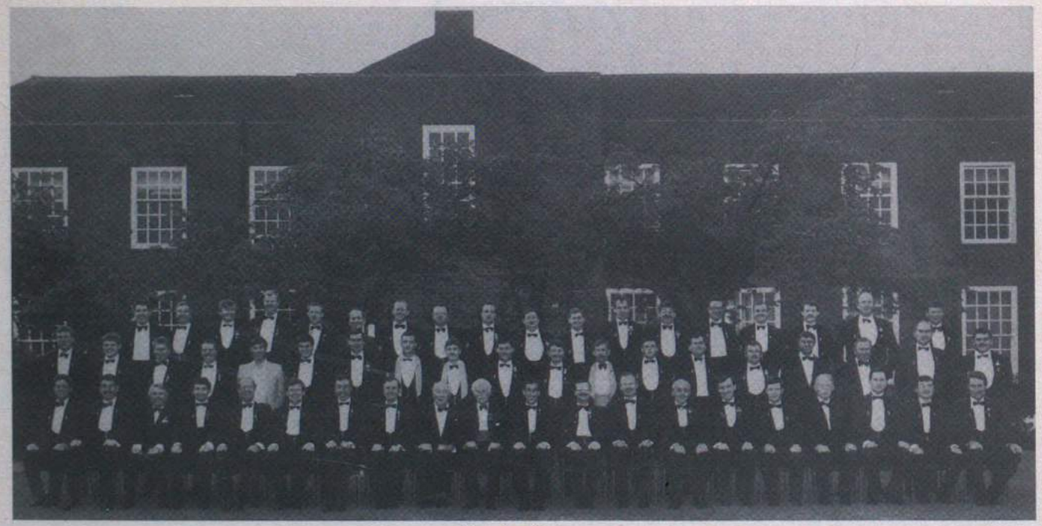
The Games Night on the Saturday was to prove another marathon of endurance. The Officers, WOs and SNCOs were beaten by the other ranks in a gripping contest which featured the carpet bowl skills of the two Subalterns, **Lt Grahaem Neal** and **2Lt Graham Ingles**.

Unfortunately for the happy funsters they found their jolly japes curtailed by the early start on Sunday morning as part of the Squadron headed east to Stanford Training area for Ex Stanford Snipe.

The weekend's success was due largely to the work of the Squadron's WOs and the past members who turned up and our thanks go to them.

A special award of a MIW (Mention in *The Wire*) goes to **Maj D. C. Richardson** from HQ Trg Gp Royal Signals who arrived in time to get a plate of sandwiches and to hear the speeches. He then had to leave at 'sparrows' on Saturday to fulfil other commitments. An all round trip of 900 miles for a plate of sandwiches! His efforts reflected the spirit of the 'Old Boys' of the 'Red Hand Gang'. 1991 will see our 50th Anniversary. Make a date in your diary.

Lt Col Phil Spooner 'Looking Good'



Reunion Dinner

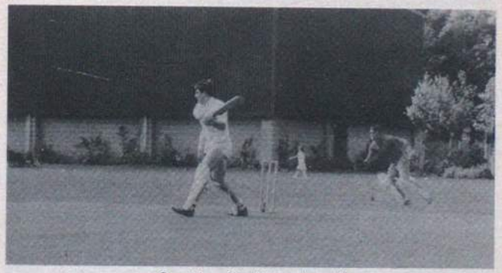
Rear Rank: Sgts Jenkins, Geelan, Wood, Collins, Anderson, Mr Reynolds, Sgts Cooper, Crosby, Howell-Walmsley, Hartley, Davies, Duddell, Butler, Duffield, Godwin, Jenkins, Freeman and Frankel

Centre Rank: Lt Neal, 2Lt Inglis, WO2s (RQMS) Atkinson, (FofS) Howells, Mr Janaway, SSgts (ORSQMS) Morrissey, Wise, Giles, Sgts Laughlin, Roe, Marsden, Inglis, SSgts Martin-Pitt, King, Little, Mr Morgan, Mr Sreeves, WO2s Levett and (YofS) Reynolds

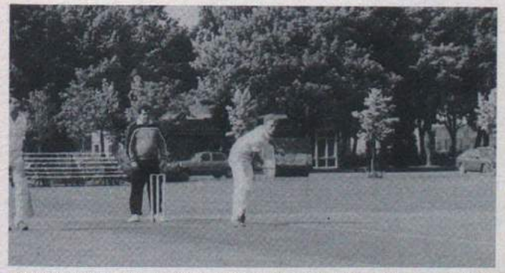
Front Rank: Lt Healey, Capt Bucklow, Majs Charles, Crowley, Vigurs, Lt Cols Elford, Melhuish, Allen, Maj Smith, Maj Gen J. M. McNeill, Maj Symonds, WO2 (SSM) Smiley, Lt Cols McLean, Spooner, Majs Thwaites, Elford, Saul, Capts Smith, Powell and Harrison

Maj Smith (Retd) hands over a copy of 'The History of Air Support Signals' to the OC Maj Rob Symonds

The General does an 'off the cuff speech' to the amusement of the SSM and OC



Capt Ian Bucklow, lets fly



Sig Stroud lets rip watched by umpire SSgt Greg King from E Tp

Lt Neal and 2Lt Inglis on route to a second place in the bowls against LCpl Webb and Cpl Gilfin (wearning the lamp shade)

VISITS

Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE, Comd 2 Sig Bde and Cotswold Garrison visited the Squadron on 11 July. He arrived at 1030 hrs and after an introductory brief by the OC **Maj R. D. Symonds** he visited the troops. Alpha Tp, which supports the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) (AMF(L)), set up its impressive Arctic Warfare Stand and Bravo Tp, which supports the UK Mobile Force (Land) (UKMF(L)), demonstrated the deployment of the Brigade Air Cell. The visit ended with the presentation of the LS&GC Medal to **WO2 (FofS) Howells** and the GOC Northern Ireland Commendation to **Sgt Howell-Walmsley**, in the Sergeants' Mess at RAF Brize Norton. Our photograph shows the Brigadier with **WO2 (FofS) Howells, Sgt Howell-Walmsley, Mrs Betty Howells** and **Mrs Julie Howell-Walmsley**.

SPONSORED SLIM

WO2 (FofS) Mike Howells and **WO2 (FofS) Tony Reynolds** decided whilst sitting in the Squadron Ops Cell in January that they were both far too fat and ugly! Acknowledging that they couldn't do much about their looks, they turned their attention to doing something about their weight.

Thus started a sponsored slim in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital Appeal. Their start weights recorded on 5 March are covered by the Official Secrets Act (or so they tell me). At the weigh in 12 weeks later on Friday 27 May, **Mike Howells** had lost 26lbs and **Tony Reynolds** 20lbs.

With the help of **Lorraine Oliver, Tony Reynolds** raised £83, money coming from as far afield as Manning and Records Office. **Mike Howells** is still collecting the money and looks as if his sponsorship may top £100.

Tony Reynolds has now left us for 13 Sig Regt on promotion to WO1 where he hopes to regain his lost weight.

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

EXERCISE APHRODITES AMBLE

Report by Sig 'Scottie' Slater

Aphrodites Amble is a twice yearly exercise held for all members of 254 Sig Sqn. The aim is to refresh and practise all Mil Skills . . . (however, the Handbags believe it's the SSM's scheme to ruin years of well manicured fingers!). It is held over three fun packed days at Dhekelia and Evdimou Training Areas.

The exercise started at an early hour just to get everyone in the right frame of mind for the whole exercise. We were herded on to First Class UN Coaches (Bedfords) and despatched to Dhekelia ranges to start the days activities, which went as follows:

The range stand proved popular with all sections. As members of 1 KOB gave us a brief insight into the SA80 which included NSP's stripping and assembling, load unload, and with much excitement we actually fired the weapon on automatic and single shot at the falling plates.

Next was a short jog to **LCpl Steve Cadby**'s (RAMC) stand which was an excellent First Aid presentation. At the end of the stand there were two made up casualties to treat, which added a touch of authenticity to the stand.

We were then beckoned to the Basic Signalling Stand by **YofS Nick Hammett** who gave us a task to be completed in 25 minutes which including a pole crossing, 9 × 9 erecting, setting up an exchange, constructing a well, concealed OP and a series of questions about the Corps, a very interesting/exhausting stand which made everyone wish they had paid a bit more attention on their BSS at 8 Sig Regt.

Map Reading was next, with **Sgt 'Stan' Holden** endeavouring to brush up everyones map reading for the following day. The main concern was reading the countours (the brown squiggly lines to you TeleMechs!). Heaven knows why! There was then a short written test that really baffled everyone.

Then came the real fun stand. The stand that got more laughs from the spectators than Jimmy Tarbuck will ever get . . . the dreaded Leadership Course with **Sgt Derek Bright** and his words of encouragement. The stand itself proved very good and really got the brain ticking (tough on us Radio Ops) and some of the ideas demonstrated were unusual.

A special mention must again go to **Sig 'Moose' Moakes** who succeeded in rendering his team useless with fits of laughter with his epic double somersault into the water pit.

The final stand of the day was NBC which was presented by **Sgt Graeme Hossell** who gave us a bit of revision and then took us to his den, ie the CS chamber after going through DKP procedures etc. He then gave us a handful of dog biscuits and told us to get on with the eating and drinking drills, which went without a hitch, but with respirators that resembled pebble dashed walls afterwards.

That's the end of the stands, so it was on to the Bedfords and up into the hills of Troodos to prepare for the following days festivities, it was a case of briefing, basha up, scoff and sleep till 0515 hrs the following morning.

On Wall: Cpl Mustoe, Sig Westcott and Wolf
On Pole: LCpl Wayne Pinhorn (Wishful thinking)
Supporting Pole: Cpl Tompkins and LCpl Smoothy

The next day was recce'd and planned by **Capt Mark Hrabowsky** (Royal Canadian Signals) and **SSgt Brian Lauder**. The course itself was 25-30 miles depending on the map reading over slightly undulating ground.

The day started early o'clock again—shock! with all teams ensuring that they had adequate water and kit. The radios were checked (that's the square thing with the wires sticking out of it, Sir!).

The day consisted of loads of walking and walking and I think there was some walking as well through various checkpoints where the DS handed out water, juice, oranges and a few words of encouragement which went down well with the rest of the sections. I think everybody's favourite checkpoint was the dreaded checkpoint Six which was on the infamous Pissouri Hill. This proved to be short but very demanding, it was a case of switch to 'mountain goat' mode, head down and go for it. The worst part was reaching the summit and having the DS gleefully snapping away pictures of pained expressions which caused the SOP, mumble, mumble, PVR, mumble, mumble, sign off, winge, winge. Great stuff!

The final stretch took us from Pissouri to Evdimou Beach—at the end we were greeted by the dulcet tones of **Capt Charlie Manning** and **WO2 (SSM) Butch Maycock** offering us congratulations (or words to the effect) and pointing us in the right direction for the bar and a lemonade or five. That evening there was a barbecue and bar organised by **SSgt (SQMS) Barry Thorp** and his best friend 'Red'. This proved a bit too much and everyone was in bed by 2000 hrs preparing for the final day.

It was the relaxing day so at 0600 hrs **SSM Butch Maycock** took us for PT and a dip in the Med just to make sure we were well and truly relaxed. After a quick breakfast **WO2 (FofS) Downie** took us for a 25km relaxing orienteering competition which was a very good course and really made the blisters throb!

Then we had raft building which proved to be good fun and everyone discovered the salty sea dogs of the section. Incidentally, this stand was run by— surprise, surprise—**SSgt Brian Lauder** and **Sgt Stan Holden**.

Water sports was run by **SSM Butch Maycock**, and this included canoeing, windsurfing, and half drowning yourself.

By the end of the day the camp got squared away and we headed back for sunny Nicosia with a few good memories to bore people with in the bar. All and all the general concensus was that it was a demanding but thoroughly enjoyable exercise. Thanks must go to **Capt Charlie Manning** and his band of intrepid DS (and Keo).

EXERCISE RUN DOWN

To **Capt Mark Hrabowsky** and **SSgt Brian Lauder**—those were the biggest 'slightly undulating' we've ever seen!

And, congratulations to **Sgt Jo Longphee** (Royal Canadian Signals) for being the only safety boat to be rescued by the raft.

Standing L-R: Cpl Lewis, Capt Hrabowsky, Sig Bird and Bedborough
Kneeling L-R: Sig Brewin and Cpl Kekkonen

SQUADRON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Capt Hrabowsky has regained the Squadron Tennis Championship defeating **Sgt Longphee** in a surprising 6—0, 6—3 upset.

SQUADRON FISHING COMPETITION

An impromptu Squadron fishing competition was held at Lymbia Dam. After a close contest the results were as follows: First—**WO1 (YofS) Hammett**—37 fish totalling 2lbs 4ozs, with the runner up **Capt Manning**—3 fish totalling 3½ozs.

Both contestants look forward to the return match.

SUPPORT REGIMENT SWIMMING GALA

Against strong opposition in a very close fought competition the Squadron Water Polo team emerged as a champion team. Not content with their victory, they went on to clean up the medals by winning the Support Regiment swimming competition.

The victorious Water Polo and Swimming team
Standing L-R: WO2 (FofS) Downie, Sig Lewis, Eldridge, Sgt Hossell, Capt Charlie Manning, WO1 (YofS) Hammett and LCpl Churchward
Kneeling L-R: Cpl Towlson, WO2 (SSM) Butch Maycock, Sig McLaren and Harper

RADIO TROOP
PRINCESS ROYAL DAY

This one day occupied the Troop for almost a month, the only thing that was not constructed was the runway and terminal buildings. **SSgt Lauder** was given the task for the planning of the 'It's a Knockout' competition, and some suggestions for games would have been more fitted to ancient Rome, a definite thumbs down to those who do not work at the Airport.

The weather took its toll as usual with panic on where the water would come from to fill the rubber pools for 'It's a Knockout'; however **Cpl Eshlin** managed to get the UN 'Trumpton' Fire Engine to dispense 20,000 gallons of its precious liquid and **Sig Bramwell** was the first to test the temperature. The organiser, our own **SSgt Lauder** insisted on trying the games for a few laughs when **LCpls Paul Davis** and **Jack Sorbie** almost broke their necks whilst under a mattress cover. Once the event was laid out, it resembled a War Dog Assault course.

Princess Royal Day was celebrated with a drinks party at the Wire Inn. The Force Commander, **Maj Gen Griendl** and other senior officers were present. This put us in the right mood to tackle the 'It's a Knockout' programme in the afternoon.

Radio Tp, 'The Wild Bunch', consisted of **Cpl Alexander, LCpls Parry, Andrews, Sig Marritt** and from the Canadians, **Cpl Tompkins** and **Sig Murray**. To say that the team were laid back, almost horizontal, would be an understatement—sporting their 'Who Cares, Who Wins' Tee shirts, much to the displeasure of **SSM Maycock**.

To set the tone our Team Judge, **Sgt Ripley** took an early bath before the competition began. The other judges consisted of **SSgt Lauder, Cpl Eshlin, LCpls Sorbie** and **Davis** all from Radio Tp. With the minimum of effort, the team won every event with maximum points scored without the aid of the 'Joker'.

The team was awarded a medal each for their efforts which was a slight disappointment as they didn't fit into the Club Pool Table.

COMMCEN TROOP

Troop OC	**WO1 (YofS) Hammett**
Commcen Supervisor	**Sgt Hartshorne**
Day Cpl	**Cpl Lewis**

GOLF

The Troop sporting competition in May was the most energetic event organised yet, 18 holes of golf at the Ladra Palace crazy golf course, armed with a ball, a club and a can of Fosters each (maybe more than one in some cases). The rules were made up and the battle commenced. Some of the course hazards proved to be more of an obstacle to the players than the balls.

Results were: Gold—**Cpl Mitch Mitchell** (one under par); Silver—**Sgt Dave Hartshorne** (two over par); Bronze—**Sig Dave Owen** (nine over par) and Last **Sig P. W. Pipe Wolferstan**.

BOWLING

In June the Troop took to the bowling lanes. An enjoyable night was had by both the bowlers and the non-bowlers.

Results were: Gold—**Sgt Dave Hartshorne**; Silver—**LCpl Pete Smoothy**; Bronze—**Sig Martin Ashworth** and Last **Sig Chris Quinn**.

(Probably the only reason that **Mitch Mitchell** didn't get a medal was that he was on R&R in Egypt at the time!).

BREWERY TRIP

On 13 June all troop members that were not on shift assembled at 0830 hrs to attend a Keo Brewery trip to Limassol. The coach managed to get us through the gates to Keo Breweries before it broke down. In the meantime a new bus was ordered from Nicosia and the trip went ahead. Everyone listened intently to the tour guide for the first 10 minutes, then as it was a hot day, turned our thoughts to the tasting room.

Keo were very generous with their refreshments. We left the Brewery for a recreational trip into Limassol in the afternoon. Everyone agrees that it was a good day, so good in fact, that another trip has been planned.

Finally, as usual, we say hello and goodbye to the following:

HELLO

LCpls Stevie Epps, J. B. Bowering, Sig Chris Quinn, Mal McLaren, Daz Eldridge and **John Tierney**.

GOODBYE

LCpls Max Boyce (will Napa survive), **Pete Smoothy, Sig John Harding, Dave Owen, Craig Bird** and **Nig Brewin**.

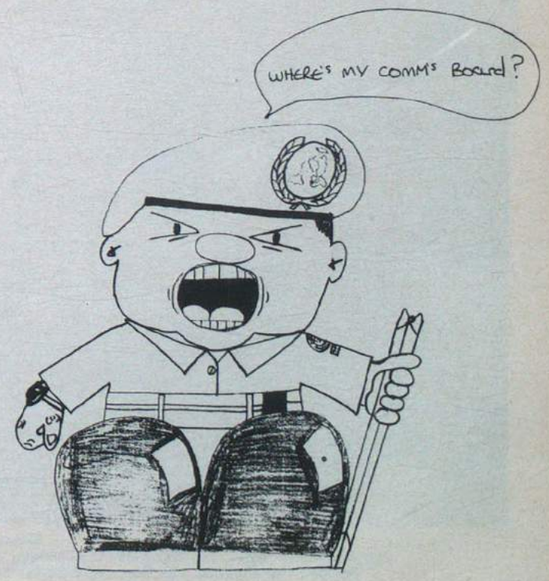
All Commcen on RTU go back to 30 Sig Regt but **Pete Smoothy** leaves the Army soon to join the Kent Constabulary—good luck for the future **Pete**.

SHQ

Since our last contribution we have said fond farewell to the FSO's Clerk, **Mrs Jinty Major**, off to pastures new. **Jinty** will be sadly missed by all, particularly those having experienced an ear bending for slow payment of bills! In her place we welcome **Mrs Liz Donaghy**.

Congratulations to **Sgt Howard Ripley**, our Chief Clerk, on an excellent result on his Service Funds Account Course, with a 'A' Grade. Now he has trouble getting through the door with his swollen head!

By the way in case you're wondering why these notes are so short, we've all been employed looking for the SSM's Comms Board (Pssst—what's a Comms Board?).



259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

SHQ PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Danny McConnell**
2IC	**Capt Peter Cain**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Clyde Atherley**
Trg SNCO	**SSgt Les Allen**
ORC	**Cpl Jim Peat**
Clerk	**Sig Ian Harper**

The past few months were fairly busy in SHQ, but now with various inspections, including our Annual documentation Inspection behind us, we are experiencing a relatively quiet period.

WELCOMES

We welcome **WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis**, his wife **Margaret** and family and **Cpl Jim Peat**, our new ORC. We hope they will enjoy their tour with the Squadron.

DEPARTURES

Sadly, we must say goodbye to our old ORC, **Cpl Ken Richards**, and wish him a good tour with 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

HEADQUARTERS TROOP

The end of June and early July saw various personalities from the Troop attending the combined 262/259 Sig Sqn Summer Camp. Each week comprised of a combination of activities including Water Skiing, Wind Surfing, Sailing, Sub Aqua, Orienteering and Rock Climbing. An enjoyable week's adventure training was had by all.

Congratulations to **Cpl 'Stan' Staniford** on his glorious victory in the Orienteering Event.

Meanwhile two teams from the Troop were preparing to take part in the Dhekelia Raft Race, the teams consisted of: Raft 1—**Sgt 'Steve' Owen, Cpl 'Ken' Phillips, LCpl 'Gaz Cuss'**, and **LCpl 'Gaz' Davey**. Raft 2—**Cpl 'Stan' Staniford, LCpl 'Nez' Nesbitt, LCpl 'Taff' Roberts** and **Sig 'Gaz' Bradshaw**.

Needless to say a good day was had by all despite the fact that we had no real chance of winning, with over sixty craft racing.

CONGRATULATIONS

Go to **Cpl Ken Phillips** on his promotion to Sgt, and **LCpl 'Nez' Nesbitt** on production of a packet of cigarettes.

WELCOMES

We would like to give a warm welcome to **Sgt John Davidson**, his wife **Betty** and three children, **LCpl 'Nez' Nesbitt**, wife **Helen** and two children and last but not least **Sig Nick Campbell**.

FAREWELLS

A sad farewell to **Sgt Steve Owen**, wife **Margaret** and children **Julie, David** and **Paul** on posting to 14 Sig Regt. Also **Sig 'Gaz' Bradshaw**, wife **Denise** and son **Wayne** on posting to 7 Sig Regt.

MOUNTAIN TROOP

Mountain Troop has experienced a large turnover of personnel in the past two months. New Troop Members include **Lt I. G. Standen**, just off the aeroplane as these notes are being written, **WO2 (FofS) Dave Gunn** with wife **Jenny** and family, **Sgt Mark Keller, Cpl 'Wos' Wosika, Cpl 'Billy' Bremner** and **Sig 'Taff' Creber**. All smiling and looking forward to their various length tours here in Troodos.

Work up the mountain has been going well recently with our team of three Tele Mechs, under **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson**, making great headway in their efforts to replace our lightning worn overhead cable routes. Whilst our predominantly new team of Techs has been learning the ropes from **Sgt Steve James, Sgt Paul Coombs** and **Cpl 'Dinger' Bell** before we lose their wealth of experience on posting.

We have also had time for a little relaxation hosting the rest of the Squadron for the inter troop Hockey and Volleyball competition. The organisation by **Sgt Steve James** was nothing less than excellent. Even to the extent that the Mountain/HQ team achieved victory in both sports considerably aiding our enjoyment of the 'no expense spared' after match entertainment.

AIRFIELD TROOP

First of all we must say farewell to **Sig Bradley** and his wife **Michelle**. They're off to 21 Sig Regt and we all wish them lots of luck. Wonder if he'll get a chance to fit in a Falklands tour or two while he's there?

On the sporting side, 34 Regt (RAF) just beat us in the Station Commander's Swimming, part of the Station Commander's Cup. We were slightly more convincingly beaten in the inter troop 259 Volleyball and Hockey Competition up in Troodos. The mountain air obviously affeced us badly.

Sig McQueen has represented himself in various fishing competitions recently, collecting no less than four firsts, one second and a third in the last two months. He was picked up for the Army Squad, but as he takes great delight in pointing out, due to prior commitments he won't be able to make it.

Congratulations also go to **Sig Durrand**, who took 3 wickets in 3 consecutive balls—Howzat—whilst playing for 259 against HQ British Forces Cyprus. Incidentally 259 managed to win that particular match.

Mountain Troop
Top L-R: Cpl Roberts, Sig MacPhee, LCpl Moore, Sig Creber, Cpl Woskika, LCpl Jackson and Cpl Bremner
Bottom: Sgt Coombs, Cpl Rae, WO2 (FofS) Gunn, Lt Coldrey, Sgt James, Cpl Bell and Sgt Keller

EPISKOPI TROOP

AIR-SEA RESCUE TRAINING: WITH SPECIAL GUEST LT COL KIMBER

0630 hrs—Epi Troop board transport for the trip to RAF Akrotiri. Our destination being the Akrotiri Mole, home of 10 Port Sqn RCT, our hosts for the morning. So as not to let us off too lightly we were expected to run the last two miles, to warm us up before a swim. Some 20 minutes later we were able to embark on our allocated ship, the *Arromanches*. However, before setting out from the quay side **Cpl 'Bod' McDonald** managed to clear something from his system.

Once out at sea, and at the allotted distance of one mile from shore the loading ramp was lowered. This was to allow us some time to get used to the water temperature, before the next phase in the programme. As the time rapidly approached 0900 hrs the fun ended and the serious stuff started.

At 0900 hrs exactly, **Sgt Billy 'Dino' Farrell** promptly dumped the life raft over the side. The lucky 12 volunteers donned life jackets, and received the required briefing. Then we inflated jackets and jumped into the water, making our way to the raft. Everbody with the exception of **SSgt Andy 'FMJ' Fullwood** that is. Everyone else had managed without difficulty to inflate their jackets, however **Andy** had decided to blow his jacket up orally. As he was being hauled into the raft, the gas cylinder on his jacket actuated, causing his jacket to blow up. His face was a picture, although unfortunately there wasn't a camera near by. Once everybody was aboard we were released from the mother ship and allowed to drift off, to await a helicopter from 84 Sqn RAF.

On arrival at the scene the helicopter's winchman gave a demonstration of how to walk on water before commencing the task of picking up the first person to be rescued, **Lt Col Kimber**, who due to a lack of communication was taken and deposited on shore instead of the ship. His uniform being reunited with him some minutes later. Eventually, everyone had their turn until finally the last man was winched back to the ship. We then collected our breakfasts from the galley and set sail after the life raft. Once the minor task of collection and deflation was complete it was back to the Akrotiri Mole, and disembarkation. Sunbathing and swimming at Buttons Bay followed, before making our way back to Episkopi and work. What a way to start a working week!

TROOP NEWS

Congratulations to **LCpl** and **Mrs Andy Cook** on the birth of their son and to **LCpl Luke Bazzard** on his recent engagement to **WPte Deena Purcell**.

Lt Col Kimber *(right)* with members of Epi Tp

Boarding the Raft

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Nigel Cory**
TOT	**Capt Colin Bachelor**
AO	**2Lt Karen Osterburg**
YofS	**WO2 Bill Jackson**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Edgecombe**

DHEKELIA GARRISION INTER UNIT ATHLETICS

The event is designed to recruit talent for the Garrision team to compete in the league events against the other five Garrisions on Island.

It was a hot May afternoon and the Squadron having managed to twist enough arms was able to enter every event.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the team for coming runner-up in the competition, narrowly beaten by 1 King's Own Royal Border Regt by three points.

MINOR UNITS FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

After a disastrous season in the league finishing somewhere near the bottom. The Squadron decided that it was time to end the season with guns blazing. After defeating our arch rivals 62 Sp Sqn RE in the quarter-final 2—0 we ended playing 33 SU (RAF) in the semi-final and winning 2—1 after being 1—0 down for most of the match.

2 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt were our next opponents. We had a tremendous start within the first 10 minutes with our Captain **Sgt Stan Matthews** putting us 2—0 up, the second goal being a wonderful half volley from the edge of the 18 yard box. The match continued with end to end stuff and 2 Sqn managed to pull a goal back just before half time.

The second half started the same as the first and 2 Sqn equalised with a controversial goal with the ball hitting the top of the crossbar without going out. 262 hit back a few minutes later with an excellent header from **LCpl Dave McInnes**.

But **Cpl Tony Sparks** wasn't to be out-done and scored an excellent header that any centre forward would be proud of into his own goal. That came at full time and none of us really fancied another half an hour but the crowd had grown with such an exciting match going on.

So extra time started and 2 Sqn decided that they should take the lead for the first time in the match, the defence failing to clear the ball at the far post, rebounding out and 2 Sqn were 4—3 ahead. But if 2 Sqn could bounce back then, so could we. **Cpl Mitch Ashley** scored the important goal. Some say the ball just hit his leg and went in as he had hardly touched it before that.

With 10 minutes to go and the score at four all **Cpl Tony Sparks** was substituted. With legs tiring and all to play for **Sig Miles Lambert Sweeney** made a brilliant run down the left passing inside to **LCpl Gary Kirk** who ran through to score. Two minutes to go! All we had to do was to clear upfield but somehow our substitute **Cpl Taff Shaw** decided to cross the ball across his own goal to make it five all.

Now it was time for the penalties, the best of five. **LCpl Gary Kirk** and **Sgt Paul Goddard** were both missing. We were 3—2 down on penalties and **Sgt Stan Matthews** was now responsible for keeping us in the game but he shot wide and so the cup went to 2 Sqn.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the lads for a splendid match and season and hope you all do better next year. Unfortunately I will not be here for it.

HMS *BOXER* LIAISON VISIT

Background to the visit which took place from 24 May-10 June.

Volunteers were asked for by the Royal Navy Liaison Officer to work on RN Ships returning from the Gulf between Cyprus and the UK so that some of the RN could take some leave. Three RN and one RFA ships would be stopping at Akrotiri Mole before sailing back to the UK via Rhodes, Corfu, Alicante and Gibraltar. **Cpls Trev Cotter** and **Nick Smith** were the two lucky volunteers selected from the Squadron and they were assigned to HMS *Boxer* for the duration. Over to you **Cpl Cotter**.

After a briefing by the RNLO we set off by LSL for HMS *Boxer*. She is the largest Frigate in the RN and was originally built as a destroyer. She is powered by two Olympus engines (the type used in Concorde), with two Tyne engines as back up. She has a maximum speed of 32 knots, normal cruising speed of 16-20 knots.

Our welcome started with a can of beer. Then there was the introduction of the head of 7 Mess, **Leading Seaman Al Stewart** who would be looking after us during the cruise. The rest of the day was spent loading stores, drawing bedding and being shown our places in the Gulch (an alcove in the Mess where we would be sleeping). Then it was time to socialise and met the Mess members. 7 Mess is 24 strong consisting of Radio Ops and EWOps. After a rather long night we eventually went to bed hoping that we had already found our sea legs.

0700 hrs brought reveille or pipe-to hands. It came over the ship's tannoy like the cry of a banshee. Breakfast and cleaning was followed by a full tour of the ship. It started with familiarisation of life jackets and life boats; then round the Ops room, the main communication

office, the engines, the water distilling plant and finally the air conditioning plant. In the evening we retired to the Stokers Mess. Mess 5/6 is the Naval equivalent of the Lineys' and Telemechs' bars that we all know and love.

After breakfast the next day we went on to the flight deck to watch the Sea Lynx going through its paces with looping the loops etc and stall flying. A Russian plane being picked up on the ship's radar added some excitement, before watching a practice Torpedo demo.

By now we were into everything on the ship. We'd taken part in the superstars competition coming a moderate fifth, the Cyprus team included ourselves and **Cpl Brian Cody**, 280 SU Troodos and **SAC Al May**. We'd seen a torpedo fired from a helicopter, had a death defying flight in a helicopter and barbecue. By now we'd passed through the Straits of Messina, seen Mount Stromboli, a still active volcano, a school of dolphins and a whale. There were also a full speed trial and practice action stations when we were locked in the Mess with no means of escape!

Just before arriving in Alicante there was 'a hands to sea'. Whilst we were swimming, the gun boats patrolled for sharks which soon appeared, so all hands returned to the ship!

Arriving in Alicante we were given six free days, so we went down to Benidorm. Needless to say we all enjoyed our stay there, but all too soon it was time to go back to HMS *Boxer* for the run to Gibraltar before going through the Bay of Biscay on our way to England.

We certainly knew when we were in the English Channel as we were confined to our Messes due to rough seas, gale force 9. This was soon forgotten once we started to celebrate Channel night, a celebration which signifies entering port after a long sea trip.

We really enjoyed the attachment to HMS *Boxer* and would like to thank the following for making it possible: Ship's Captain **Capt J. F. Perowne OBE, RN, Lt J. Stanfor**, Pilot RN, members of 7 Mess including **LS(EW) Al Stewart, LH Dave Guyan, ELF Elford Ian 'Zeus' Pritchard** and **'Dirty' Den Healy, Burney Barnard** and all the others too numerous to mention. Not forgetting our OC Sqn **Maj Nigel Cory** for releasing us, **SSM Dave Thomas** who organised the return flights, **WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson** and **Sgt Val 'Valium' Holsgrove** for standing in for us whilst we were away.

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATS

Again there is mass movement in the Squadron. We must say goodbye and good luck to **SSgt Dave** and **Elisabeth Belshaw**, off to 21 Sig Regt, **Sgt Paul Goddard**—we hope your new career is as successful, **Cpl John Morgan** off to HQ AFNorth, **LCpl George** and **Rose Marie Elliot** to HQ Rheindahlen, **LCpl Bob Mackie**—also embarking on a new career and last but not least **Mrs Joy Lee** and children finally catching up with her husband.

Welcomes go out to **SSgt Nigel** and **Jackie Grant, Sgt Gary** and **Lorraine Rhodes, Cpl Martin** and **Maureen Abraham, Cpls Peter Harvey, George Stebbings, Lynn Goodall, Donald** and **Amanda McKernan, LCpl Tony** and **Alison Luther, LCpl Steve 'Taff'** and **Jacqueline Skinner, LCpl Allan** and **Tracey Dummer, LCpl Colin Tyler, Sig Rod** and **Sharon Helps** and **Sig Michael Drury**.

Congratulations to **Cpl Gary** and **Pte Lynne Hewings, Cpls Mark 'Bully'** and **Jo Bullivant, Sgt Nick** and **LCpl Elaine Shaw** on their recent marriages and **Sgt Chuck** and **Andree Robertson** on the birth of their second child.

During the recent visit of **Maj Gen Friedberger** to Dhekelia Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, the General found time in his busy schedule to present our SQMS, **SSgt Dave Edgecombe**, with his Lond Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The citation was read by the OC, **Maj Cory** and witnessed by **Linda Edgecombe**, children **Vicky** and **Kevin** and members of the Mess, all of whom found it very hard to believe that the SQMS could have been good for 16 years! Well done!

VISITS

The plague continued well into July with visits from **Brig S. Cowan OBE** DPR(A) who managed to spare time from his PR schedule to visit the Signal Squadrons, a gesture much appreciated by his former Corps.

Gp Capt A. J. Chaplin RAF, ACOS CIS/AIR/PLANS, after the reorganisation of HQ BFC, accompanied by **Lt Col Kimber** now DACOS CIS 1, also popped in to familiarise the Group Captain with the workings of a Signal Squadron.

MINOR UNITS ATHELETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

There was a gathering of the clans in Happy Valley on a scorching June afternoon. The Squadron was able to field a full, determined team for the event but unfortunately lacked the final stages of training and so a few other teams had that extra edge. It was a most enjoyable day all the same and congratulations must go to **LCpl Taff Thomas** who came second in 100m and was consequently selected to represent the Army in 100m and relay.

It was a different story for the Dhekelia Garrison WRAC Team who were runners up in the Ladies Champships. Congratulations must go to **Cpls Gail Russell, Sally Oldridge** and **2Lt Karen Osterburg** for being selected for the Army team in 1,500m, high jump and shot and discus respectively. **Cpl Russell** went on to win the 1,500m in the Inter-Service Champships; what a star!

EXERCISE SUNNY JIM II

Ex Sunny Jim II was a combined Summer Camp for both 259 and 262 Sig Sqns, held in the remote, but picturesque area of Evdhimou over a period of two weeks. Many activities were enjoyed by all throughout the camp including: water skiing (once the boat had finally arrived from Dhekelia on the back of a Bedford!) run by **Cpl Barrie Foster** and canoeing (when not sunbathing) run by **LCpl Dave McInnes** and **Sig Nick Nichols**.

There was also the chance to go sailing under the 'expert eyes' of **Sgts Bob Orchard** and **Chuck Robertson**.

As well as these there were a few 'attempts' at windsurfing, horse riding and rock climbing. Perhaps the most interesting of all the activities was the sub-aqua run by the Akrotiri Sub-Aqua Club.

Thanks must go out to all who helped organise and run the camp over the two weeks. A few 'new' activities were introduced however, when some bright spark decided that a windsurf board should double as water skis and that canoeing should be replaced by underwater PT! Maybe by the time the next camp comes around these 'events' will have become recognised sports.

FRED FLINTSTONE DAY

Fortunately for 262 Sig Sqn, Saturday 16 July was a beautiful day in Dhekelia so their 'Fred Flintstone' beach barbecue was able to go ahead as planned. It was a very successful day with everyone enjoying the watersports on Victor Beach in the afternoon, followed by a disco at the Squadron Bar in the evening. Prizes were awarded at the disco for the best 'Fred Flintstone' outfits. The winners were **Sgt Lee Murray** for Best Man, **Mrs Chris Dixon** for the Best Woman and **Pte Karen Taylor** and **Sgt Lee Murray** for Best Couple. The whole day was well organised and had good support from the Squadron and their families. We are glad to report that no-one was injured, despite everthing! Special thanks for the day must go to: **Sgt Chuck** and **Andree Robertson, Sgt Russ** and **Jackie Dale, WO2 (YofS) Bill** and **Phyllis Jackson** and **Debbie Thompson**.

608 Sig Tp (SSIT)
BFPO 40

TROOP HQ
OC Tp — **Capt (QM) M. A. Stevenson**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt G. Douglas-Hiley**

The Troop has had another busy period moving, maintaining and moving again the WMR equipments stored in the various RAOC depots throughout BAOR. Our Ordnance Corps friends are impressed by our abilities—though a little bemused by the master plan! The major shock to us was finding ourselves involved in Ex Summer Sales; we hope this is not an ongoing trend.

Unfortunately the one trend which is continuing is the depletion of our military manpower. The latest to leave us are **Sgt Russ Dodd** our one and only RR Tech, and **LCpl Kevin Lake**. We wish them both well and can guarantee that none of us will ever forget their going away 'do'. We welcome **Miss Nicky Reagan**, a civilian replacement, and hope she enjoys her time with the unit.

RSIT BFPO 44
OC RSIT — **Lt Col (TOT) D. Brown MBE**
FofS — **WO2 (FofS) J. Mugford**

RSIT wish a fond farewell to **Sgt McHale-Smith** and hope he and his family enjoy their posting to Shetland.

PWSST (FWD) BFPO 107
OC PWSST — **Maj A. H. Symmons**
2IC PWSST — **Capt J. Abbott WRAC/R Signals**

With the exercise season behind us we are making the most of the quieter summer months to catch up with the inevitable post-exercise IRs! However the new Ptarmigan database is the next hurdle—Version 9 is due out in the autumn and is already giving **SSgt (YofS) Sam McElreavey** many a headache.

Cpl 'Scouse' Horabin managed to escape on a week's summer camp with 656 Sig Tp and came back complaining of a sore head (and not from any physical injury!). **SSgt 'Percy' Thrower** caught us in a moment of weakness and was given permission to go to Italy for two weeks on adventure training. The difficulty was persuading his wife that it was a good idea . . .

There are three small exercises in September which we are supporting and the whole team will be back out again in full strength for the Corps exercise in November. Finally, we grabbed a rare opportunity to have a PWSST (FWD) team photograph taken—the first time all military and civilian members have been in station at the same time for almost a year.

SSgt (YofS) Sam McElreavey, Capt Julia Abbott and a very tired shredder standing among the remains of the Ptarmigan database Version 7 printout. The Yeoman, incidentally, has the Version 8 printout in his hand—there's progress for you!

The PWSST (Fwd) hierarchy!

The PWSST (Fwd) EQRT (Extremely Quick Reaction Team). WO1 (FofS) Chas Dowie ready to rush to the aid of a Sick Switch

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES
FSO — **Capt Jim Dryburgh**
Tp OC — **Lt Joe Cooper**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Bob Shortis**
FofS — **WO1 Ron Kirkwood**
YofS — **WO2 Dave Bowman**
TQMS — **Sgt Bob Porter**

EXERCISES

We are into the hurricane season at the moment, which runs from 1 June until 30 November and we are reliably informed that Belize is overdue one of these big winds! So, to ensure that we have got it right, the Force had a hurricane exercise to practise our hurricane precautions. This entailed the commcen becoming the Force HQ. After this exercise the powers that be, decided that this was not a good idea as 15 staff officers and their clerks did not fit very well into the FofS office. The FofS was much relieved to hear this!

The FSO, **Capt Jim Dryburg**, has been up to something in the jungle. We intend to find out what and will let you know.

EXERCISE TOUCAN BLADE

This is the Forces biannual defence of APC exercise, in which a large portion of the troop deploys to the Tx site and defends a section of camp perimester while the remainder deploy to the Commcen to defend that. The FofS, **Ron Kirkwood**, is an 'old hand' having been here over six months and already experienced on Toucan Blade. He decided that a couple of sangars on the Commcen roof would be a good idea. Sandbags were plentiful but sand was a bit of a problem. 'I've seen plenty of sand under the swimming pool' somebody told the FofS. A sandbag filling team was sent to the pool. One hundred sandbags later a rather irate PSA foreman turned up at the Commcen looking for the person who had told some signallers to fill sandbags with very expensive filtration sand used on the pool filter system! The sangars look very nice. And so they should.

During this exercise **Sig Paddy Millar** was told to guard the back gate. Eight hours later **Sig Millar** was missing, nobody had seen him during this period. After an intensive search he was found at the top end of camp guarding the back gate to the airfield. 'Who told you to go there?' the FofS ranted. 'You did FofS' was the reply 'You told me to guard the back gate!' The FofS gave up and walked away muttering to himself.

Cpl Radar Noott has settled into the troop well, YofS, **Dave Bowman** seems satisfied with his crypto NCO, but this could be due to the fact that he cooks his breakfast for him whilst he is on exercise!

THE SUNSPOT CLUB

This famous tourist attraction is in the process of being refurbished with new walls being built, new furniture being bought and the bar being redecorated. All due to the hard work and time put in by **Sgt Jeff Guy** and his merry bunch of cement makers and brickies. It is hoped that all this work will be completed at the end of August. The FofS hopes so to so that **Sgt Guy** can get back to technicianing!

BELIZE LOGISTIC BN MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

This annual 'fun' event was held in July with the troop fielding three teams and we are pleased to announce that our teams were placed first and third. It was hard work in the heat and humidity but everyone performed well and congratulations are extended to all those who took part and a special thanks to two members of 25 Flt AAC, **SSgt Alan Oshand REME** and **LCpl Tim Raines**.

PROMOTION

Congratulations to **WO1 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood** on his recent promotion.

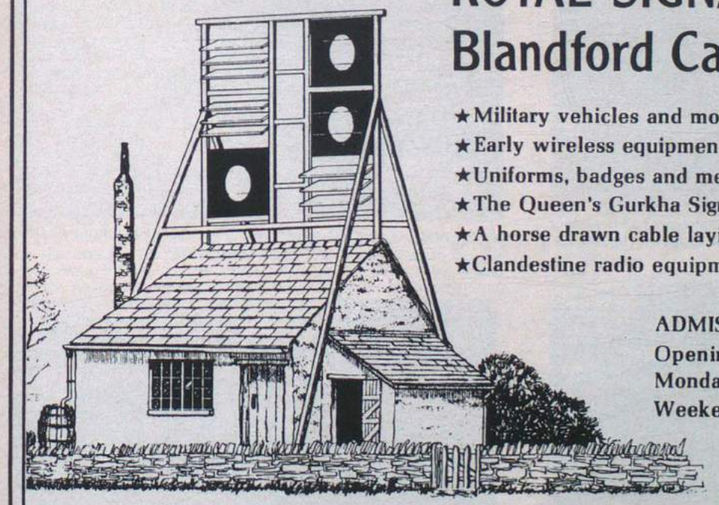
FAREWELLS

The troop would like to say farewell to the following: **SSgt 'Stiff' Stemmer, Sgt Chris Ward, Cpls Paul Bowse, Neil Perham, Sgts John Smith, Ray Neal, Cpl Phil Case, LCpl Andrew Callaghan, Cpls Steve Casson, Aaron Lawler, LCpl Jack Hawkins, Sgts Bob Porter, Saun Wratten** and **Sig Aaron Jones**. Good luck to you all in the future.

ARRIVALS

We welcome the following: **SSgt Bob Shortis, Cpls Sandy Sanderson, Graham Bassford, Nick Hipwood, Sgts John Carpinini, Andy Winter** and welcome back to **Sgt Stew Ryder**.

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

THE BLANDFORD REUNION

Travelling from London, in brilliant sunshine, at 0800 hrs on Sunday 15 May our hopes were very much dampened on leaving Salisbury to run into a typical monsoon downpour with torrents of water running down the sides of the road making driving very difficult indeed. As we entered Blandford Camp the torrential rain seemed to stop and passing the square, where the afternoon show was to be held, we gathered that the outdoor events were to be cancelled as all the chairs were hastily being loaded back into trucks. We thought this is the first time that we shall have to confine ourselves to the indoor displays in the number of years since the Reunions were started in Blandford. How wrong we were to think this as on coming out of the Reception Centre the sun was shining brilliantly and the decision was made to revert back to the scheduled programme. As it turned out it proved the right decision as we were able to witness, once again, the displays that were laid on for us to enjoy; namely The White Helmets; The Blue Helmets albeit that they took some time to decide to 'jump' and when they did, nearly landing in the laps of the spectators (except for one who decided to inspect the HQ Officers Mess Area), and finally The Playing of Retreat Ceremony by the Corps Band followed by an Evening Hymn and Prayers. There were nine Branch Standards on Parade during the Playing of Retreat. We left Blandford about 1800 hrs after having enjoyed a wonderful day away from the smoke. Pictures of both the White and Blue Helmets appear after the Catterick reunion notes. The attendance at Blandford again exceeded the 500 mark. The organisers (including the Catering Staff) are to be congratulated on making our day so memorable.

THE CATTERICK REUNION

Once again the Catterick Reunion has gone by without any mishaps and reports have come in on how those who attended had a very enjoyable week-end amongst their old comrades and many a lamp was swung in conversations taking place in the three messes on Saturday evening. Again there were a few visitors from overseas, one coming from as far away as Kenya (an ATS Signals lady) who had such a wonderful time she cannot wait for the next one in 1989.

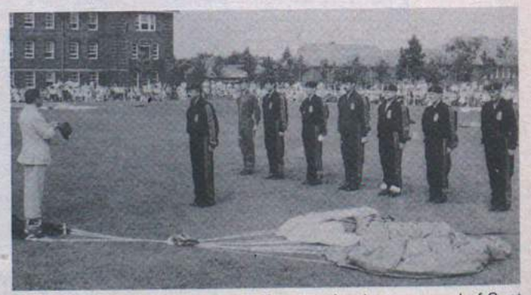
Our attendance at this year's renuion was, again, between 700 and 800 members and families and our sincere gratitude is passed on to all ranks of The Training Group Royal Signals who coped with this mass invasion so efficiently.

31 Branch Standards were paraded on the March Past which included the newly dedicated Standard of the Coventry Branch of the Royal Signals Association. A photo display of some of the activities that took place follow. Sorry to disappoint some members in not showing how well you behaved yourselves on Saturday evening but thought it was about time we showed our readers that it is not all drink and chat that goes on at these reunions.

The Log Obstacle Race was performed by Lightning Tp The Junior Leader Squadron—Army Apprentices College Harrogate

A member of the Blue Helmets Free Fall Parachute Display Team landing on target

The Royal Signals White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team, also featuring a ride past by 'those magnificent men on their ancient machines' (seen lurking in the background) as seen in the 1987 Royal Tournament



The Royal Signals Blue Helmets Team under the command of Capt Malcolm Coupar

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FORTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON 26 JUNE 1988

OFFICIATING

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE	Chairman
Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	General Secretary
D. Greenbrook Esq	Administrative Officer

PRESENT

Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE	Signal Officer-in-Chief
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	Past Colonel Commandant
Brig A. F. Eastburn	Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Vice-Chairman
Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE	Vice-Chairman

and some 168 Members of the Association.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and in particular, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

The Chairman read out the exchange of telegrams between the Master of Signals and All Ranks Royal Signals, and the Colonel-in-Chief Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO on the occasion of Princess Royal Day.

MINUTES OF THE 42ND MEETING

The Minutes of the 42nd Meeting were **approved.**

The Chairman wished to comment on a remark made by his Vice-Chairman, **Lt Col Murray**, at the 89th Meeting of The Central Committee held on 8 April. Under AOB, **Lt Col Murray** had expressed an entirely personal point of view in suggesting that the Catterick Reunion may (in due course) become a one day event. The remark is recorded at paragraph 12 of the minutes of the 89th meeting and with **Lt Col Murray**'s agreement the Chairman wished to record that the suggestion is not a matter for debate at present or in the medium term future. The Chairman went on to say that the format of the Catterick Reunion was a matter for serious debate and he would be circulating a paper on this topic for consideration by all branches. He welcomed any views on this matter at any time from individuals or branches.

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman thanked the Signal Officer-in-Chief and all members of the serving Corps for the continuing support given to the Association by their contributions to the One Day's Pay Scheme, and for the successful running of the Annual Reunions in Catterick and Blandford.

The Chairman said that experience over the previous two or three years would suggest that benevolent support to members of the Corps past and present and their families was settling at a reasonably predictable figure. The maintenance of morale in the serving Corps was boosted by the support given by the Association to all games and sports, and in the Corps at large by the subsidy given to '*The Wire*'. His predecessor and the Finance Committee had weathered the storm of the 1987 Stockmarket crash and at present Association expenditure was containable within budget.

The Chairman reported that there are now 66 Branches (which includes eight Affiliated Unit OCA's) of the Royal Signals Association. Since last year a branch has reopened in Middlesbrough.

Mr Alan Wilkinson has taken over as Corps Accountant from **Mr James Hayward.**

The staff at Association Headquarters are:-

Mrs Pat Haw	Welfare Officer
Mr David Greenbrook	Administrative Officer
Lt Col Ted Andrews	Editor *The Wire*
Mrs Marjorie Riggs	Assistant Editor *The Wire*
Ms Tina Hill	Association Accounts

and they are to be thanked for competing successfully with a demanding year.

ACCOUNTS

The Audited Accounts of the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund for 1987 were approved.

NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP CARD AND LAPEL BADGE

The General Secretary stated that:-

- a new plastic type life membership card would be introduced in the near future and would be issued together with the existing card, while stocks remain, to all new life members and to existing life members who so wished. Existing members should apply through their Branch Secretary or directly to Association Headquarters if not a member of a Branch.
- a new Association lapel badge (incorporating the Corps colours and badge in silver) would also be available, shortly, on sale from Association Headquarters.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

In accordance with Association Rules the following elections/re-elections were approved:-

Chairman & Treasurer		**Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE** (Re-election)
Vice Chairman	(1)	**Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE** (Re-election)
	(2)	**Brig A. F. Eastburn** (Ex officio as Commander Training Group Royal Signals).
TA Representative		**Col N. P. Henwood TD** vice **Col M. V. Upson TD.**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Maj R. G. Aitken (Shrewsbury Branch) wished to record that 'The Shrewsbury Branch' would in future be called 'The Shropshire Branch'.

Mrs I. Harvey (Manchester Branch) wished to record her gratitude and thanks for the help and assistance given to her in looking after **Mr George Franklin** (aged 92) by all members of the Training Group at events throughout the weekend.

There being no further business the Chairman invited **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief to speak on the serving Corps.'

FUTURE EVENTS

Reunions in 1989 are:-

Blandford, Sunday 14 May.

Catterick, Saturday/Sunday 1/2 July.

Freedom of Richmond Parade, Friday 30 June (evening before the Catterick Reunion).

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1987

1986			1987	
		INVESTMENTS AT COST		
662,046		Listed	739,963	
5		Unlisted	5	
	662,051			739,968
	17,051	LOANS		12,515
		CURRENT ASSETS		
8,587		Stocks	9,032	
4,015		Sundry debtors	6,432	
13,040		Income tax recoverable	13,000	
80,174		Cash	97,579	
105,816			126,043	
		CURRENT LIABILITIES		
(1,921)		Royal Signals Corps Funds	—	
(63,036)		Sundry Creditors	(22,438)	
	40,859	NET CURRENT ASSETS		103,605
	£719,961			£856,088
		Represented by:		
	£719,961	ACCUMULATED FUND		£856,088

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 1987 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

Price Waterhouse
Chartered Accountants

11 March 1988

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1987

1986			1987	
		INCOME		
213,095		Receipts from Corps Fund	203,676	
19,086		Subscriptions and Donations	8,882	
69,440		Investment Income (gross)	67,852	
3,965		Interest on deposits	9,768	
(415)		Other Income (including petty trading)	1,813	
	305,171	TOTAL INCOME		291,991
		EXPENDITURE		
36,997		Running Expenses	43,564	
2,600		Audit	3,003	
79,210		Corps Activities	94,941	
11,481		Reunions	13,834	
174,883		Benevolence	153,621	
7,055		Grant, Centre-piece, Catterick	—	
62,477		Grant, Mess Extension, Blandford	—	
	374,703	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		308,963
	(69,532)			(16,972)
	71,514	Profit on sale of investments		153,099
	1,982	EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		136,127
		ACCUMULATED FUND		
	717,979	Brought forward 1 January		719,961
	719,961	Carried forward at 31 December		856,088

Notes to the Accounts—31 December 1987

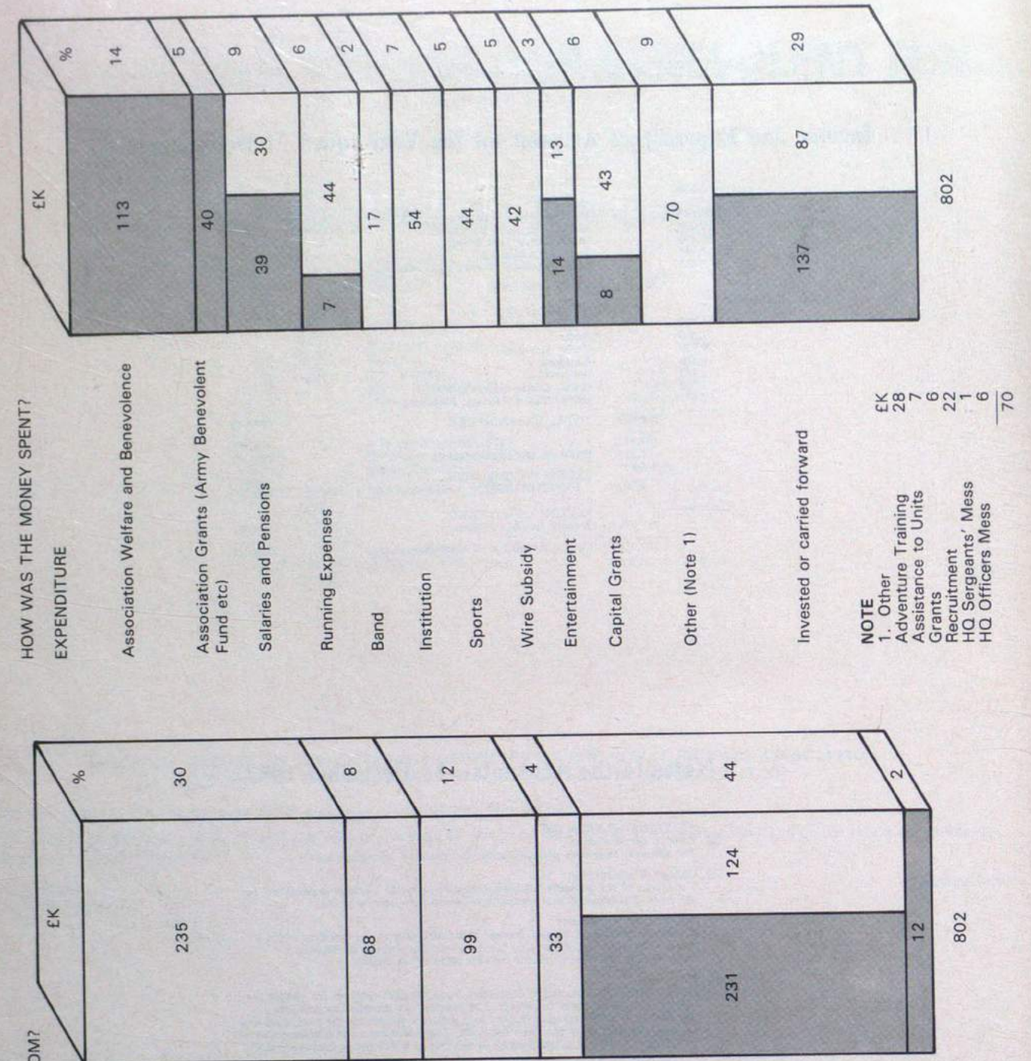
1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Change of presentation
The layout of the accounts has been changed to provide a clearer presentation for the users. The previous year comparison figures have been re-stated.

(c) 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.

(d) Pensions
The Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund provides pensions for certain of its employees and former employees. The pensions are provided by premium payments to a Life Assurance Society to purchase annuities for the pensioners and by supplementary payments from the Fund. These premiums and supplementary payments are charged against income in the year in which the payments are made.



LEEDS BRANCH

In this long overdue report to *The Wire* we begin with references to Branch Management. After the sad death of our old friend and Comrade **Maj Bob Edwards** in October 1985, **Maj Jim Malcolm TD** was elected Chairman and at our AGM last January **Col Richey Bigland TD** retired after a total of 15 years as President. His was a particularly fine record of work and support backed up by very long experience in the Corps. He was our principal guest at the annual dinner last year and he continues to take part in our Branch activities. Elected in his place was **Col John Davies TD** who had an earlier spell as President in the seventies. We maintain a strong, hard-working and able Committee with a great deal of service and experience between them and we rely especially on the unfailing efforts of our Secretary **Trevor Smith** and our Treasurer **Mr Les Wilder**.

Sadly we see the passing away of old soldiers and comrades but with the occasional 'new' old soldier appearing and with new members from 49 (West Riding) Sig Sqn (V) we keep up Branch strength quite well. We are scarcely ever without cases of need of one kind or another which require help or compassion and as the rest of our report records we make sure the Branch is active throughout the year.

We continue the long established tradition of an annual dinner which is always well attended. These occasions provide very welcome opportunities to entertain our spouses and personal friends and to enjoy the company of distinguished guests. In recent times we have been privileged in this way to receive **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL** and **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB. Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE** and **Mrs Birtwistle** have kindly accepted our invitation to our annual dinner later this year. At our 1986 Dinner we were very pleased to welcome as our main guest **Lt Col G. A. Marriott** Comd WRAC NE District.

Thanks to the hospitality and co-operation of the Army Apprentices College in Harrogate, we continue also with an annual service and Remembrance ceremony in St Alban Church at the College. This event was inaugurated on 15 July 1973 following arrangements made between **Brig Norman Butler CBE** (Colonel and Commandant at the time) and our then President **Col John Davies TD** whereby the Branch's Book of Remembrance recording the names of Royal Signals who lost their lives in World War 2 was received into the church for safe keeping. During the service there is a solemn turning of a page in the Book and the service is followed by a march past (weather always permitting!) led by the College Band. The programme ends with generous reception and hospitality in the College Messes. These are very much family occasions enjoyed by us all and we are deeply indebted to successive Commandants and their staffs for making them possible and always so successful. In recent years the day has been more enjoyable having the support and company of members and families from Harrogate Branch. Perhaps this is a convenient point for us to record our appreciation of the particular interest in Association affairs taken by **Col Conrad Garton** during his term as Commandant of the College.

Another family occasion is enjoyed on Remembrance Sunday when we join with 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V) and other TA Units centred on Harewood Barracks in Leeds for a Drumhead Service in the Drill Hall after which small parties lay their wreaths on the Cenotaph in the City. Then follows what are always convivial lunch sessions in the Messes and the day often turns out to be the only one in the year when we meet up with certain of our oldest friends and colleagues with their families (including grandchildren nowadays!). This particular event seems to grow in popularity year by year.

Dealing somehow with the ever increasing difficulties of meeting transport costs our contingent to the Catterick Reunion ceremonies and programme maintains its numbers and the weekend is always enjoyed and well remembered. As Association members well know there has of late been some change in the well tested and well established programme for this event which is of course of special importance and interest to the Association. Whilst remaining most appreciative of the programme with its accompanying hospitality and facilities and being ever mindful of the logistic problems imposed on the Garrison we surely hope that one way or another standards can be maintained and the Reunion will continue to be dominant on the Branch calendar.

We conclude by recording our thanks always to successive OC's of 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V) and their Staffs without whom and without whose resources and facilities in Leeds, generously made available, it would just not be possible for us to sustain Branch activity and enthusiasm as we do. Such arrangements are now in the capable hands of **Maj Claire Pickles** WRAC (V) who succeeded **Maj Philip Walker TD** as OC a short time ago, and the equally dependable care of **Capt Gordon Bonner** who as PSAO followed **Capt Fred Dolby MBE, MM** who had been in the job for many years. He was our principal guest at our annual dinner four years ago.

READING BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

One Sunday in mid-June we met for a most enjoyable 'family picnic' at Bird World. This is a wonderful bird sanctuary which boasts a large variety of birds from budgies to emus, penguins and—wait for it!—a condor. It was a delightful day, the weather warm and sunny.

It has been the custom of the Branch to hold two 'unofficial dinners' during the year. This means an evening dinner in a hostelry accessible to as many members as can be arranged. Such an event took place at the Catherine Wheel at Henley, and it was a most successful evening, shortly to be repeated.

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

Before his death in November 1987, **Maj Wilfred Manners MBE** had arranged for 36 floral plants at a cost of some £6,000 to be given to Shrewsbury and placed in the Frankwell area.

His wish came to fruition on 28 June when his daughter, **Miss Ann Manners** handed them over to the Mayor of Shrewsbury, **Councillor V. T. Bushell** at an informal ceremony at Frankwell roundabout.

Also present were representatives of the many organisations and associations with which **Maj Wilfred Manners** was connected in the town.

Wilfred Manners was born in Rugby in 1903 and educated at Victoria School, Wrexham. In 1918 he joined the GPO Engineering Department. In 1934 he joined the Corps Supplementary Reserve and was granted a regular commission in January 1935. He saw service in India before the war and during the war served in the Gulf of Kutch and Addu Atoll, Maldive Islands. He was made MBE in 1944. He returned to the Post Office in 1945 having been invalided out of the Army.

A founder member of Shrewsbury Branch, he was, until a few years ago, one of its regular attenders at Branch functions.

Left to Right: Mrs V. T. Bushell, Mayoress; Maj Bob Aitken, Sec Shropshire Branch; Cllr V. T. Bushell, Mayor of Shrewsbury; Miss Ann Manners; Mr John Wall, Shropshire Branch President

Photograph by Bob Carter Shrewsbury Chronicle

IS THIS A RECORD?

Following recent correspondence in *The Wire* regarding family service records in the Corps, seven members of 10 Signal Regiment, Hounslow (1968) met, 20 years later, at the Catterick Reunion in June 1988 and wish to put up the following as a challenge to any other unit.

Pictured L to R are **Sgt Derek 'Legs' Leggott** (23 years); **Sgt Wendy Leggott** (WRAC Signals 5 years); **WO1 Ernie Gibson** (the RSM) (25 years); **SSgt John Widdecombe** (24 years) **WO1 (Yeoman) Cliff Wood** (26 years) **WO2 Don Prescott** (24 years) and **WO2 Dave Greenbrook** (26 years). The ranks shown were as at 1968 and the years were the individual years served in The Corps. The total service is therefore 153 and this is the challenge we set:

'Can any other unit, of bygone days produce a group photograph at the Annual Reunion in Catterick to better this total? Surely it is possible'.

(We should be pleased to hear from any member or ex member of the Corps who has/had relatives serving in R Signals. It is hoped to produce a list of families within the Corps family. Please write to **Capt (Retd) V. L. R. Dugdale**, c/o RHQ.)

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

Report by E. E. Bayley, Hon Secretary

A warm welcome awaited the veterans of the 3rd Divisional Signals on their arrival for the annual reunion held from 18/19 July. Met by the Adjt **Capt David Meyer** we were taken to Korbecke and on arrival there the CO **Lt Col Ashley Truluck** and the **RSM 'Rick' Licence** greeted the party. **Col Ashley Truluck** in his welcoming address stated 'As veterans of the only British Divison that fought at D day still in existence, we are extremely proud to welcome you back. I trust you will have an enjoyable and memorable visit and on behalf of the regiment may I thank you for coming back to the Division and reminding us of the debt we all owe you'.

The party of veterans included 14 ex D day members, pre-war members **Porky Edwards** (82) ex **D. R. Pedlar Palmer** (84) who made it at the last minute having just got over a bout of bronchitis.

Saturday dawned a wet day. The OC 3 Squadron **Maj Bob Brannigan** briefed us on the days' activities, which started with a demonstration of the new rifle.

After returning it was as guests of the Corporals' mess that a buffet lunch was provided with Commanding Officer joining us.

I think the Corporals Mess members were quite impressed and will be talking about the visit of the old codgers of 3 Div for a while. Transport under arragements made by OC 1 Sqn **Maj Harry Ross** conveyed us to the CO's house for a barbecue and to meet the Regimental Officers. Due to the inclement weather high winds and non-stop rain the barbecue was held in a marquee. Here, to my surprise, I met **Maj Michael Anderson** and his family and learned that he was the son of **Maj Gen Sir John Anderson** with whom I had served in the War Office Whitehall 1947—1953 and last saw when he was CSO London District.

Sunday 17 July another wet day, with the rain beating down incessantly. Medals polished we mounted the bus and were whisked off to St Luke's Salamanca Barracks for a family service. The veterans marched in under the banner of the 'Brownies'! Church service over it was back to the Sergeants Mess for a families barbecue lunch and we joined with the children to be entertained by a Magician and comic videos. Before the barbecue some went to the village of Stockum near the Mohne Dam to see the start of the Schutzenfest March.

Monday 18 July and sadly heavy rain again and quite cool too. Capt **Keith Whitehead** OC 2 Sqn took us on a tour of the new buildings which house the Technical stores, tanks and workshops etc.

It was then on to see the Mohne Sailing Club. Our party had been split into two for this occasion so we met up with a very wet looking lot who had gone sailing. After having been lent some suitable clothing **2Lt Simon Spiers** (22) who introduced the art of dingy sailing. It was a delightful afternoon and something we may look forward to next year (if invited). Lunch and drinks at the Club.

Those of us who went for a trip in the armoured vehicles got caked in mud as it was quite a rough ride and **Porky Edwards** swore he would not ride in one again—being a heavy chap was not able to get in! It was like sailing; a very exhilarating experience.

That eveing we were to learn that **Alex Mills** who had earlier retired for the night had a heart attack just outside the Officers Mess. **Elwick** and I accompanied **Mr Mills** to the German Hospital in Soest where he was admitted to intensive care. We left him in good hands. The Adjutant spoke to me on the telephone after to say that he had been in contact with the hospital and the British Medical Officer in attendance and assured us that **Alex Mills** was responding to treatment and it was a mild attack.

On 19 July the Veterans set off for a trip to the NAAFI in Soest. **Lt Col Ashley Truluck** came to bid us farewell and **Maj Pip Wheeler** spoke on behalf of the Veterans as our **Chairman Ken Smartt** had flown home earlier. The Colonel assured us that all was going well with **Mr Mills** but the results of the tests carried out would not be know till the afternoon when we would be on our way home. The Veterans could not thank the Regiment enough for the warmth of friendships formed and the welcome and hospitality showered on us. Before leaving Soest a group photograph was taken.

I wish through the medium of *The Wire* to thank everyone concerned for their generosity in helping towards the expenses of the trip and on behalf of the the Reunion Club to thank everone in the Regiment for help in looking after **Alex Mills** and accommodating **Arthur Elwick** until **Alex** is fit to travel home.

MEMORIAL OF THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY (A MUSEUM FOR PEACE) AND INAUGURATION OF 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION MONUMENT—CAEN

by E. E. Bayley, Hon Secretary, 3rd Divisional Signals Club

Mr Spittal and I were guests of the Free French at a luncheon which had been arranged at a restaurant at a place called Pont du Coudray. This ended with champagne donated by the restaurant and singing of songs familiar to both parties. After lunch I was taken to see the new museum which was now open and is free to veterans. Back to the farm and after another hearty meal it was early to bed at Colville, as my host Mr Fenerolles is not a young man. I also learnt that the French equivalent of the Red Arrows was known as 'La Patrouille de France' French Air Force.

On 8 June some of the veterans went to Benoville, Pegasus bridge and the Airborne Museum which is managed by Mr Brian Greenhalgh, ex Signals and 4th Indian Divisional Signals with the Eighth Army.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SECTION—1936

Following the publication of a group photograph in the May issue, **J. C. Cassidy** has sent this photograph and would be pleased to hear from any former comrades who served with him there from 1936-1941. He is at 'Winwood', 60 Cameron Street, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 8DP (Tel: 0383-723983).

Back Row: LCpls F. Hunt, J. C. Cassidy, E. Burrows and Dvr Norcup (Maj Solly's Groom)
Third Row: LCpl Wiseman, Sig H. Lowings, E. Stubbs, H. Cole, LCpl H. Turner and Capt Gem's Groom (Name unknown)
Second Row: Sig W. Hawthorne, LCpl J. Bull, Sig R. Adams, E. Perry, D. Buck, H. Foster, W. Mannion, H. Fulford and R. Barrett
Front Row: Cpl H. Sumner, Sgt W. Bowler, Maj R. J. N. Solly, WO2 (FofS) G. Diamond and Sgt C. Parry
Small Unit Trophies Rowing and Tennis

— Sport —

BADMINTON

A PLEA FROM THE HEART!

From: Maj S. Hargreaves—Secretary Corps Badminton

Where have all the Badminton Players gone?

We, the Corps, have lately drifted into the doldrums as far as this superb sport is concerned, and because of this there has been no annual tournament for the past few years.

I know many of you play and are extremely enthusiastic about the game but immediately the word tournament is mentioned everyone backs off.

Without the ever hopefuls, the more junior players coming for the experience, the old and bold or even those wishing a few days off work there can be no tournament.

I would like to re-vitalise this sport within the Corps and put us back where we belong, and have been for many years, amongst the top three teams within the Service.

No matter what standard you are, if you wish to enter this year's tournament then contact your unit badminton officer or the Orderly room or give me a ring on Tidworth Mil 2738.

The dates I am offering up for this touranment are: 7 to 9 October 1988, or 14 to 16 October 1988, or 21 to 23 October 1988, or 28 to 30 October 1988

BOARDSAILING

The 1988 Royal Signals Boardsailing Championships were held at Browndown Camp, Lee-on-Solent, on 23 June. There were two valuable and enjoyable days before the event during which competitors were able to acquaint themselves with the open sea sailing conditions. There was a fleet of some 22 competitors who had travelled from all over UK and BAOR.

The weather was perfect for tanning; however, winds proved to be rather slow to get up each morning. Luckily the later half of the championships was blessed with some freshening winds which restored confidence and excitement.

Maj Gen Hild, the Admiral of the Royal Signals Yacht Club, was present and lent support and encouragement over the two days covering the Loot Challenge and the Championships. It was most appropriate that he was able to present the prizes at the first independent Royal Signals Championships.

16 Sig Regt romped home with the lion's share of the prizes. **Cpl English**, having defected from 21 Sig Regt demonstrated his skills consistently, winning a little cash in the Loot Challenge and then the first prize in the individual lightweight class. **Sig Townsend** excelled in the heaveyweight class in which he won first prize. **Sgt Maher** followed **Cpl English** by coming runner-up, as did **Cpl Dickson** in the fatties class. In addition to their performance in the individual races, 16 Sig Regt A Team was awarded the Whiff Cup and the B Team received medals for coming second.

There were other units represented as well! **Sgt Chalmers** from 641 Sig Tp came third in the lightweights and **LCpl Anderson** from 238 (L) Sig Sqn achieved third place in the heavyweights. Other units represented included 8 Sig Regt, 21 Sig Regt, 30 Sig Regt and the School of Signals.

The success of the event was due mainly to the sterling services of the supporting team. Thanks from all competitors are extended to **Lt Col Keith Powell** for laying out the courses and controlling the races, **Sgt Thorpe-Willett** for running the safety boat, **Cpl White** for providing nourishment throughout, and **LCpl Ramahrak** for his good works and setting such a fine example in the tanning stakes.

It was with regret that many other units were unable to attend the event due to other more pressing committments. It is known that there were many keen boardsailors who would loved to have proved their skills. It is, therefore, the intention of the current committee to hold the next Championships earlier next year, probably in late May. In addition, the rule differences between BAOR and UK will be more carefully presented to provide a clear and acceptable policy.

CRICKET

R SIGNALS OFFICERS' XI v WELBECK COLLEGE 1988
MATCH REPORT—STRICTLY OFFICERS EYES ONLY

'For when the One Great Scorer comes
To write against your name,
He marks—not that you won—or lost,
But how you played the game'.

For the last few years it has been the policy of the Chairman of Corps Cricket to take an all officer side to the home of the Duke of Portland to play Welbeck College. This year the side was chosen, by our Chairman, not strictly on merit, nor entirely on nepotism and friendship. Rendezvous was established just outside enemy territory at the Greendale Oak, quaintly known to all Old Welbexians as The Langdale Arms. **David Luckett,** this year's secretary had situated the appreciation well, providing a banquet of a luncheon which only **Tom Richardson** managed to consume.

Col Conrad Garton grasped the opportunity of this 'bacchanalian meet' to give his taskorg and appointments. **Cols George Finney** and **Steve Coltman** were to open the batting, **Col Steve** setting the example as senior professional (eventually out for a duck!). **John Radford** was appointed vice captain and OIC potential barmaids should the match last overnight. **Brig Alan Eastburn**'s much better half, **Anthea** was placed under remit as Florence Nightingale to the chosen 11, putting into practice her nursing experience, last deployed at Pinewood Studios, where she met her husband.

Tom Richardson (Mr Jotes to you subbies) was firmly placed in charge of crumb clearance. No favouritism this year. A-hah, **David Wise**, refreshed from his arduous duties in keeping the Colonel Engineering afloat, was proclaimed major antagonist. **John Egan** and young **Richard John** arrived late, very late, they were awarded bagmen—doggy bag men.

Of paramount import **Kathy Garton, Judith Coltman** and **Francis Finney** were strategically appointed as assistant spies to **Anthea**. The Principal of the college was seen, around the disaster period in the game (for us) escorting our charming informants to the sunken garden, horse corridor, . . . et al.

The Chairman clearly won the toss, and lost the decision. Cometh the hour . . . At two minutes past two, Officers 3 for 2, at 32 minutes past two, 35 for 6. Cometh **Radford**, cometh **Richardson**, cometh **Fisher**. Stands the college clock at ten to three, and is there honey still for tea? Cometh four, cometh more. The officers achieved 104 (all out).

Richardson with **Radford**'s help, clearly dominated the next 20 minutes—the tea interval.

The officers took the field at 1630 hrs. **Brig Alan, Cols George** and **Steve** stood resplendent alongside **Fisher** the keeper. Snick, out. Click out, thump, appeal, out. All action, no antagonism, no need for decisions. The match was clearly and clinically directed from silly point and won.

The glory of young Welbexians is their strength and potential but not at cricket.

Col Conrad walked tall and proud towards the pavilion on the stroke of 6 pm, confident that next year he would again select an all officer, late R Signals XI).

The victorious side, with combined ages of 440 years: **Col C. T. Garton, Brig A. F. Eastburn, Lt Col S. A. Coltman, Lt Col G. M. Finney, Maj J. R. Radford, Maj T. E. M. Richardson, Maj M. H. Fisher, Capt D. J. Luckett, Capt D. L. Wise, Lt J. A. Egan** and **AT John**.

SAILING

Royal Signals Dinghy Regatta, Netley
1st **LCpl Downie/WO2 (RQMS) Mower**
2nd **Sgt Hassell/Sgt Thorpe-Willett** School of Signals
3rd **Lt Col Powell/Lt Col Rice** School of Signals

Royal Signals Offshore Regatta, Gosport
1st **Capt Lewis-Taylor** 30 Sig Regt
2nd **WO1 (FofS) Ellis** 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
3rd **Sgt Hassell** School of Signals

Royal Signals Keelboat Regatta, Seaview
1st **LCpl Downie** School of Signals
2nd **WO1 (FofS) Ellis** 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
3rd **Lt Spiers** 3 Armd Div Sig Regt

Triangular Regatta, Seaview
1st R. Engineers
2nd R Signals
3rd R. Artillery

Army Dinghy Championships, Netley
3rd **WO1 (FofS) Ellis/LCpl Barr**
4th **Capt Lewis-Taylor/Maj Lewis-Taylor**
5th **LCpl Downie/Capt Castle-Smith**

Army Keelboat Championships, Seaview
2nd **LCpl Downie**
5th **Capt Lewis-Taylor**
6th **Sgt Hassell**

Army Offshore Regatta, Gosport
1st (Halcyon Cup) **Capt Lewis-Taylor**
2nd (Passage Race) **Capt Lewis-Taylor**

Inter-Corps League
v RE—Lost
v RAPC—Won
v RA—Won

The following have been selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Service Dinghy Sailing Championships:-

Capt Lewis-Taylor
WO1 (FofS) Ellis
LCpl Downie
LCpl Richardson

The following represented the successful Army team in the Services Offshore Regatta:-

Capt Butler

Members of the Corps who wish to continue their association with the Royal Signals Yacht Club on retirement, and retired members who wish to be informed of the Club's activities, should contact **Lt Col (Retd) C. C. Fowke**, Headquarters School of Signals, Blandford Military 2313.

TENNIS

Report by Capt S. A. Crane—Secretary

The 1988 Championships took place during the period 30 June to 3 July at Blandford. Like Wimbledon, finals' day was rather wet. However, the players being true sports, (or was it ferry bookings?), played in the rain, Becker take note! The players should be congratulated on their play and sportsmanship which made the tournament so successful.

After last year's plea for more ladies 8 and 28 Sig Regt obliged. Thanks **Debbie, Carol, Meg, Angie** and **Vikky** for playing. Just a few more service girls next year and we will be able to have a 'Royal Signals Ladies Open' event. This year they had to make do with the Open against the men.

The sun did put in an appearance just in time for the mixed final and stayed until after the tea and prize giving. **Mrs W. H. Backhouse**, the Chairman's wife, kindly presented the prizes. **Pte Vikky Hawtree** from 8 Sig Regt then presented a bouquet of flowers to **Mrs Backhouse** with our thanks.

Before the results, please note that next year's championships will be held a week later. This is for two reasons, first we do not want the Wimbledon weather and secondly I want to see Wimbledon, hopefully, at the courts!

The results of the finals were as follows:-

Mens Singles	**Sig Ian Dunworth,** 30 Sig Regt beat **Capt (QM) Billy Miles,** 7 Sig Regt.
Unit Doubles	**lt Col Brian Chubb** and **LCpl Dave Coleman,** 28 Sig Regt beat **Capt Gary Mason** and **Sgt Ray Vincent,** School of Signals.
Open Doubles	**Capt Billy Miles,** 7 Sig Regt and **LCpl 'Setch' Setchfield,** 30 Sig Regt beat **Capt Gary Mason,** School of Signals and **LCpl Dave Petty,** 30 Sig Regt.
Mixed Doubles	**Capt Gary Mason** and **Mrs Nina Crane,** School of Signals beat **Capt Billy Miles,** 7 Sig Regt and **Mrs Pat Wyatt,** School of Signals.
Ladies Singles	**Mrs Pat Wyatt,** School of Signals beat **SSgt Meg Higgins,** 8 Sig Regt.
Ladies Doubles	**Mrs Pat Wyatt** and **Mrs Joan Powell,** School of Signals beat **SSgt Meg Higgins** and **Sgt Angie Hunt,** 8 Sig Regt.
Plate	**SSgt Meg Higgins,** 8 Sig Regt beat **Lt Debbie Wheatley-Price,** 28 Sig Regt.

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DM160,000 for BFBS appeal

THE annual BFBS Wireless for the Blind appeal had raised over DM160,000 by the end of the 16 hour auction and dedication session on Sunday 20th December.

BFBS are delighted with the support from the many companies who donated items, in particular Austin Rover Military Car Sales who gave an MG Metro which raised some

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11½" Jimmy, cold cast bronze, height including plinth	41.75	48.00
6½" Jimmy, solid bronze, height including plinth	28.45	32.70
Keyring, Bullet	0.87	1.00
Keyring, Leather	0.40	0.50
Keyring, Corps (enamelled Corps badge, leather tag)	1.20	1.40
Keyring, St Christopher/Corps Badge	0.85	1.00
Lapel badge, (Association members only)	0.39	0.45
Mug, white china with Corps badge in blue	1.50	1.75
Pendants, white with gold Corps Badge	3.25	3.75
Postcard Set	1.60	1.80
Royal Signals Band, Records or Cassettes	4.35	5.00
Silver Plated Teaspoon with Corps Crest	1.90	2.20
Stickers, Corps badge on Corps colours, good quality — Large	0.80	0.90
Medium	0.75	0.85
Small	0.70	0.80
Stick pin, 9 carat gold, Corps badge, can be used as brooch or tie pin	45.90	52.80
Stick pin, sterling silver, as above	9.10	10.45
Table mats, set of six, blue acrylic with Corps badge	22.00	25.30
Table mats, large 15" × 11½", as above	6.90	7.90
Tankard, 1pt, Polished pewter, lightweight with Corps Badge	12.05	13.85
Tankard, 1pt, Polished pewter, with Corps Badge	14.65	16.85
Thimble, Bone China with Corps Badge, Gift Boxed	1.90	2.20
Tie, Corps colours in polyester, 3"	3.05	3.50
Tie, Corps colours in Pure Silk, 3"	6.55	7.50
Umbrella, golf size, Corps colours	11.30	13.00
Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals'', shield, 6" × 7"	9.60	11.00
Watch strap, Corps colours, nylon	1.25	1.40

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If you are leaving the services soon, contact us right now.

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Tel (01) 548 9034 (24 hrs).

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

November 1988

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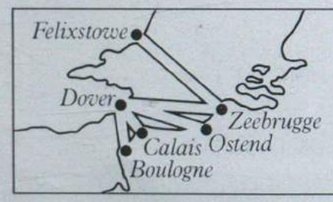

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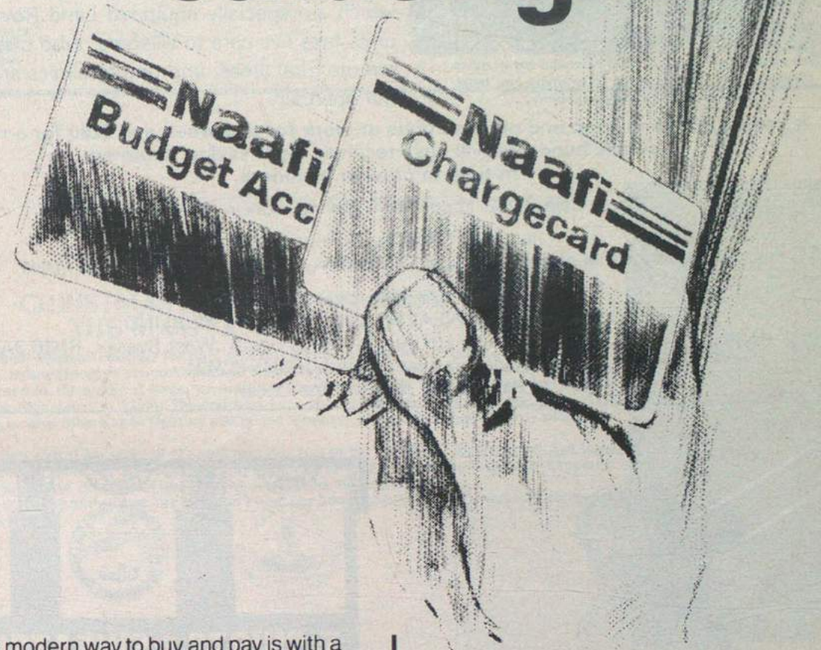

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This mobile eye unit will have travelled many miles, through dusty jungle tracks, to examine and treat the eyes of a rural community.

BRING HOPE AND SIGHT

In Africa, hundreds of thousands of people are still becoming blind — needlessly. **The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind** is working to save sight through mobile eye units, which are specially equipped Land Rovers. The units take eye care to villagers, who often live in remote rural areas; impromptu clinics are held in the open air.

It costs just £70 to keep one of these units at work for one week and £280 for a month. Literally hundreds will have received sight saving treatment, in time to prevent blindness.

Please help RCSB in our Sight Saving work — it is urgent.

Literature. Films available on free loan.
We have a panel of voluntary speakers in many areas through the British Isles.

For further information, please write to:—
ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND,
(Dept. RACJ/88), Commonwealth House, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3AZ.
Telephone: Haywards Heath (0444) 412424.
Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

For £7·64 you could buy her safe water for life.

The water this woman is drinking is spiked with a lethal cocktail of cholera, typhoid and dysentry.

What's more, she's probably walked miles to get it.

And this is no isolated case. In the third world today, 80% of sick people suffer from diseases related to poor water supplies.

To alleviate this desperate situation, Help the Aged are now funding community wells to provide villages with clean, safe water.

Each well costs £985. However, as little as £764 will ensure that each villager is supplied for life. So please help by giving as generously as you can.

To Help the Aged, Project 72406 FREEPOST, London EC1B 1BD. I'd like to contribute towards a safe water supply for a whole community. I enclose my cheque/postal order for £_____
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)_____
Address_____ (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)
_____
_____ Postcode_____

Help the Aged
THE TIME TO CARE IS NOW

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The Wire

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Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 1988 FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

Undoubtedly the most poignant episodes for the Corps this year have been the successive casulties inflicted upon our soldiers in circumstances of extreme violence. Whilst remembering with great sympathy those who were slain and mourned by the public at large, we must not forget those other soldiers serving and retired, ranging in rank from Signalman to Major General who have also ended their lives this year. Some died gallantly attempting to save others or in fighting protracted illnesses, whilst others passed away after their normal span of life.

My thoughts together with, I am sure, all of yours turn this year to the families of the bereaved. For them Christmas will not be the same but we hope and pray that the New Year will bring them new happiness sustained by the memory and example of those loved ones whom they have lost.

To all in the Corps, serving and retired, my wife and I send our best wishes for a very happy Christmas and successful New Year.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

1988 has been a hard year for Royal Signals in so many ways, but I have been encouraged by the determination with which all ranks and their families have faced the various challenges which have confronted us. We can reasonably hope that 1989 will contain fewer sadnesses, but we can expect the challenges to remain. We have a great deal of new equipment which will continue to stretch us to the limits of our technical knowledge and ingenuity, and I have no doubt that our commitment to operations will bring a few surprises. Added to this we now have worries about recruiting and retention, both in the Regular and the Territorial Army.

But we remain well poised to deal with the difficulties. As I visit Squadrons and Regiments around the world I am always impressed by the quality of our officers and soldiers, men and women. There is a confidence and professionalism abroad, and a determination to overcome problems; these all promise well for the future. There is also a stronger sense of pride in the Corps and its achievements. I need scarcely say that these achievements are many; whether at work or in sport, in our contributions to the community or our initiatives for charity, adventure training or imaginative research. In all these areas we have much of which to be proud. There is a firmer strength to the Corps family, too; whether Regular or TA, serving or retired, there is a sense of common purpose which is wholly good.

In sending warm Christmas and New Year greetings to you all, my wife and I add our thanks to those many members of the Corps and their wives and families who have looked after us so well on our visits during the year. Your hospitality has been much appreciated. Our best wishes to all ranks and their families for the coming festive season; we hope for a happy and successful 1989.

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during October, for service in Northern Ireland.

MBE
Maj A. G. Whiddett

MID
Maj N. K. P. Hope
SSgt K. M. Perkins
Sgt R. J. Pickering
LCpl A. P. Doran

CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate all ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps, serving and ex-members, on the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the ATS.

SERGEANT C. J. OTHEN

SERGEANT C. J. OTHEN

We congratulate **Sgt Christopher John Othen** on receiving the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation for his action at a traffic accident on the Shaftesbury-Blandford Road on 11 January 1988 when he assisted an injured driver from a burning car. Commendations were also received by **WO1 Peter Small REME** and **Mr Nigel Gray** for their part in the same incident.

COVER PICTURE
WO2 (Retd) Ray Mason and Sgt John Allan of 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn comparing old and new HF Radios: The B2 suitcase set on the left with the PRC 319 on the right at the BBC Radio Show. Article appears on page 555. *Photo DPR(A)*

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 1988. 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.

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It is regretted that more errors that usual appeared in print in the September issue. This, of course, was due to the recent postal strike. Whilst a lot of the errors were not originated by the unit, it does emphasise the importance of careful editing before submission.

— From our "In" Tray —

ROYAL SIGNALS AT THE BBC RADIO SHOW

There used to be a section in *The Wire* that covered Faraway Places and Interesting Jobs. **Brig S. Cowan** Director of Public Relations (Army) and **Col M. L. Jennings**, the Regt Col must have had the Interesting Jobs angle in mind when they invited the School of Signals to provide a stand at the BBC Radio Show. The School of Signals duly appointed a Project Officer who was invited to produce a KAPE display to go alongside the BBC Enterprises and Goodmans Hifi stands.

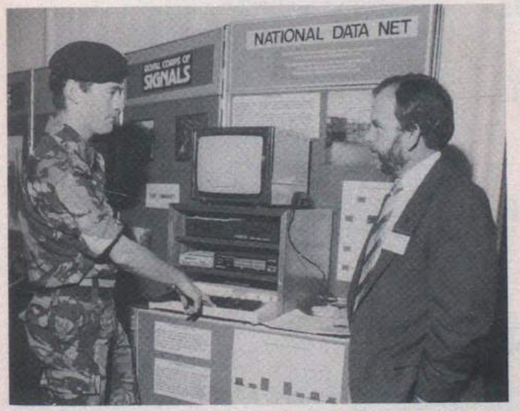
The brief from the Comd, School of Signals was to follow the historical nature of the Radio Show and populate the stand with items of equipment that would illustrate past, present and future military communications. This was duly achieved and full mock up of the display was built at the School of Signals in the week before the show was due to open at Earls Court. Items of equipment were kindly provided by the Royal Signals Museum, RSRE, CIS Gp, Transmission Gp, Army EMC Agency and Trials Sqn at the School of Signals, the Royal Signals Demonstration Team, Racal Reading, SD Camberley, Plessey Southleigh, MEL Crawley and British Aerospace, Bristol.

Special mention should be made of the suitcase radio provided by the Museum. For the Press Day before the show opened we were fortunate to have the company of **Maj (Retd) John Brown** who was the designer and builder of the set during the Second World War. **John**, who is still very active looking after remaining working sets was accompanied by retired **WO Ray Mason** who parachuted into Greece, and later Burma, to use the suitcase radio and **Capt Audrey Rothwell** First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) who also used the radio extensively during the war in North Africa and Italy. **Audrey** still keeps up her morse speed although she admits to being a bit slower than her wartime 24 wpm.

Another part of the display that deserves special attention is that provided by Transmission Gp at the School of Signals. This was a remote terminal of the embryonic National Data Network working over an HF circuit from Earls Court to Blandford. The remote terminal was able to access the host processor at Blandford and call down pages from the Bulletin Board. The HF circuit was provided using PRC 320s and a British Aerospace antenna that was easy to install on the roof of Earls Court. The audio line between the radio on the roof and the stand was laid using carrier quad cable with advice from the Contract Manager at Earls Court, **Pat O'Connell**, one time troop Sergeant to **Capt (Now Brig) A. H. Boyle** Comd, School of Signals.

Finally, thanks must go to all the units who provided soldiers to man the stand: School Regt, 8 Sig Regt, 30 Sig Regt. In addition 238 (L) Sig Sqn and the Regt Col Soldier Recruiting staff contributed enormously to the administration and organisation of what proved to be an extremely successful and interesting KAPE tour.

WO2 (Retd) Ray Mason, Maj (Retd) John Brown, Cpl Nigel Jones and Capt Audrey Rothwell FANY with a suitcase radio and the Ferranti made Satcom manpack set in the background



Capt David Burden explains to Mr Roger Worth of British Aerospace the mysteries of the National Data Net

Sig 'Billy' Bingham attempting to make good his escape with Helen McKenny of Starlight Express. Sgt John Allan and Cpl Carl Weaver wonder what went wrong with the 'Red Beret magic' this time

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

RECRUITING ACTIVITIES

The Royal Signals display teams and the Regimental Information Teams have finished their outdoor programmes for 1988, the KAPE from 1 Armd Div Sig Regt completed its tour of North West District at the end of October, and many of the more overt recruiting activities will cease until the spring. Although there must be a period in the year when displays are refurbished, soldiers have leave, new members are trained, and career courses are attended, the need for recruiting effort never diminishes.

Winter activities concentrate on schools visits, careers conventions and stands at events such as the BBC Radio Show. Support for DAR initiatives will continue where possible, and unit assistance to UOTC's, ACF/CCF's continues unabated.

Planning for next year is in progress. The provisional programme for the White Helmets/Blue Helmets is already in draft and is reproduced below. It must be stressed however that some dates will change and confirmatory programmes of Recruiting and Publicity Events will be published in *The Wire* in coming months. KAPE tour allocations for 1989 have been made and are listed below:

UK—BASED TEAMS

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt	1-14 May 89	NEDist N'land, Tyne and Wear, Durham, N Yorks)

BAOR BASED TEAMS

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	17-31 May 89	SEDist (All counties)
4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	31 Jul-6 Aug 89	Scotland (Area to be conformed, Corps Band also attending)
21 Sig Regt	16 May-4 June 89	NWDist (Cheshire and Manchester)

Reserve teams from 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 249 Sig Sqn, 14 Sig Regt and 22 Sig Regt are likely to be called forward at a later date.

Regular readers of this column will remember the announcement that six Special Recruiters are being deployed this year to heighten the Corps profile in recruiting offices and to assist DAR's recruiting effort. As a follow up to this successful venture, the deployment of six more Specials is planned for next year to ACIO's at Glasgow, York, Portsmouth, Nottingham, Bristol and Manchester. R Signals M and RO will be calling for volunteers. We want high calibre SNCO's who are keenly interested in recruiting and want a rewarding job of great current importance.

SOLDIER RECRUITING TRENDS

With over half the recruiting year past, the pattern for this years soldier intake is emerging. Adult and young soldiers totals are about 1/3 down on our requirements, but Apprentice and Junior intakes are well up, and the overall deficiency figure for the year will be in the region of 15%, resulting in the Corps being under manned by about 250 in 1989. For the next four to five years the battle for recruits will intensify and the commitment to recruiting must be overriding in the minds of everyone.

OFFICER RECRUITING TRENDS

The annual requirement for young officers commissioned from RMA Sandhurst is 50. This year (1988/89), only 35 will join. A major contributory factor for this low figure is extention of the Standard Military Course from 26 to 42 weeks, causing the apparent loss of one course's output. Next year will be better, with 45 as the current forecast. While the Corps is doing well compared with other cap badges, much more effort will be needed if the Corps' needs for young officers is to be met.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS—1989

WH—White Helmets
BH—Blue Helmets

APRIL

15	Trust House Forte, Blenheim Palace	WH
30	West Midlands Police Open Day, Birmingham	WH

MAY

1	Luton Show	WH
5	Opening Show Catterick Garrison	WH, BH, Band
13	35 Sig Regt (V), Sutton Coldfield	WH, BH, Band
24-25	Stafford County Show	WH
28	Leeds Steam Spectacular	WH
29	Northumberland County Show	WH
29	Hove Lions Day	BH

JUNE

1-5	Northern Ireland Tour	Band
4-9	TT Races Isle of Man	WH
10	Glaxo, Barnard Castle	WH
11	Stevenage Show	WH
13-14	Helston Steam Park	Band
20-22	Scotland KAPE	BH
20-22	Lincolnshire Agricultural Show	WH
24-25	36 Sig Regt (V) Freedom Parade	Band
24-25	Rotherham Show	WH
27-30	Dundee KAPE	WH

JULY

2	Bromyard Gala	WH
4	4th July Celebrations, Menwith Hill	WH
5-7	Army Exhibition for Schools, Bassingbourn	BH
8	37 Sig Regt (V), Bristol	BH
8-9	Cheshire Steam Fair	WH
13-15	Kent County Show	WH
16	Spielsby Show	WH
20	Cumberland Agricultural Show	WH
22	Spectral Vision, AA Coll, Harrogate	WH
26	Yealhampton Show, Ivybridge, Devon	WH
26-27	Weston Air Show	BH
27-28	St Helens Show	WH
29	Pickering Steam Traction Engine Rally	WH
30-10 Aug	Scottish KAPE	

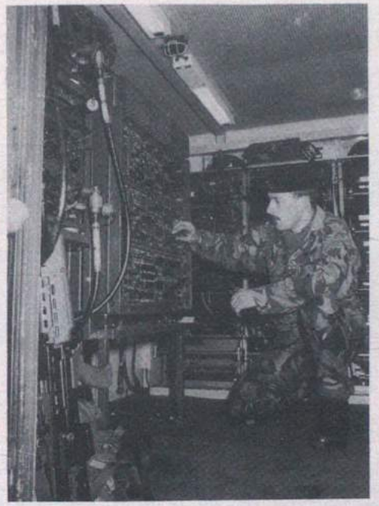
AUGUST

12-13	Gatcombe Park	WH
19	Darlington Show	WH
20	Metal Box Gala Day, Wisbech, Cambs	WH
25-28	Mil Tattoo, Staverton Airport	BH
26-28	Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh	WH
31	Melplash Show, Bridport, Dorset	WH

SEPTEMBER

2	Wolsingham and Wear Valley Agricultural Show	WH
3	Teeside Motor Show, Eaglescliff	WH
9	South Norfolk Tattoo	WH
11-15	Thame, Oxon	WH
16-17	Essex Dog Weekend	WH
23	RAF Finningley	WH

ROYAL SIGNALS TRADESMEN AT WORK



GEC PLESSEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD RECORD APPRECIATION OF CORPS ASSISTANCE

The photograph opposite was taken on the occasion of **Mr B. A. Meade**, Director, GPT (GEC Plessey Telecommunications), Business Systems Group, presenting a cheque for £5,000 to **Col de Bretton-Gordon** for the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

GPT Strategic Communication Systems recently completed the major phase of the Brinton Project, where they had substantial help from local Royal Signals staff personnel. The cheque was presented in recognition of this fact to the chosen charity of the then Comd Comms Northern Ireland **Lt Col Martin Roberts**.

There has since been a dispersal of Corps personnel from the Province and it was felt that this presentation if reported in *The Wire* would be the best way of ensuring that all those involved knew that GPT appreciated their help, which assisted the prompt completion of the Project.

MORE RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY DAYS IN LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATION IN ROYAL SIGNALS

*(Prompted by the article from **WO2 B. J. Jordan** in the September issue, **Col (Retd) J. F. 'Freddie' Worth OBE** has sent this contribution which, I am sure, will interest many of our readers. **Freddie Worth** served from 1919-59 so witnessed and indeed was a part of many advances in communication skills in the army. He now lives in Tewkesbury.)*

I found the article in the September issue to be most interesting and it has prompted me to take the subject to even earlier days of the Corps.

In 1923 I was posted to the Aldershot Command Sig Coy then located by the bridge on the Queen's Avenue, possibly the area as described by **WO Jordan**. I remained with the Company for three years until eligible by age for overseas posting. The main function of the Company was the operation of the wireless link UK (GGB) to BAOR (GGC) located at Cologne. This was a high-speed link using the 6KW 'F' Set with associated Wheatstone equipment.

From 1000 hrs to 1700 hrs daily the system was switched to the Central Telegraph Office of the GPO in London and into the German civil system at Cologne for the passage of civil traffic. During this period military traffic was processed on to tape for transmission when the system reverted to our use. This traffic included press releases phoned daily from the War Office for publication in the BAOR newspaper 'The Cologne Post'.

It was understood that the GPO considered the link the most efficient of its high speed outlets and this was not argued; it was possibly due to the fact it was relatively short when compared with the GPO's own facilities and maybe the 'F' set of a recent design.

The operation of the system was familiar ground to most of the staff, they had gained experience whilst working for up to two years in a major GPO telegraph centre as part of training during boy service; a forced growth indeed for 16 to 18 year olds.

The only other fixed commitment was one of routine calls, but little traffic, to a station on Spike Island off the South Irish coast, call-sign ACT. There was an occasional short-term requirement such as the communication to a Force HQ at Chanak in Turkey whilst it covered operations being carried out in Egypt.

The Station Staff was accommodated on site but otherwise administered by the Cavalry Tp in nearby Gibraltar Barracks. Lest it became too sedentary there was an occasional detail to report to 1 Div Sigs at first light, or earlier, to take part in early morning exercise. The writer can recall on one such occasion being returned from Laffans Plain to the stables in Cambridge Barracks at full speed, this was quite involuntary on his part. However, the fact that he did not dismount en route is testimony that the three arduous months in the Riding School at Maresfield under the demanding **Sgt Jimmy Hadfield** had not been altogether a waste of time.

Apart from the Company wireless building there was also a small hut in the compound with its own aerial array; it could be described as somewhat remote. The impression given was that it was being used by a scientist who was researching the possibility of a valve which eliminated atmospherics. Mail for the scientist was delivered to the Orderly Room to be passed on, it was addressed to a **Dr Watson-Watt**. *(Credited with being the inventor of radar—Ed).*

I have no difficulty in remembering those early days and what has evolved in the decades since; I reside in a place but a few miles from, in the one direction, the 'Barrow' and, in the other, the space-age aerial field of the RSRE.

I often reflect how fortunate one has been to have served in a Corps which places emphasis on its individual members within its corporate spirit.

ACROSS TRUST

ACROSS TRUST

Sgt Brian Wilkinson (SOinC Directorate) together with **AT LCpl Stephen Heywood** (Penney Sqn) and **AT Mark Deary** (Rawson Sqn) AA College, Harrogate joined a group which took a party of disabled to Innsbruck for a holiday in September.

The following tribute to their contribution has been received from the Group Leader **Mr John Hoskin**.

'In their willingness to work as members of the team, their care for the disabled and their relationships with the groups as a whole. **Mark Deary, Stephen Heywood** and **Brian Wilkinson** were a real asset to our enterprise and an excellent representation of the Royal Corps of Signals'.

UNFICYP SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY BY MAJ GEN G. G. GREINDL— 1988 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize is to be awarded to the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has sent the following message to all peacekeeping forces:-

> 'I am delighted to inform you that the Nobel Committee has today awarded its 1988 Peace Prize to the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces. This prestigious award is a tribute to the idealism and commitment of all those who, over the years, have served and in some cases died in the cause of peace by contributing to the peace-keeping operations of the Organisation. As you continue your own admirable efforts, I congratulate you and all the military and civilian personnel under your command on this well deserved recognition of your selfless contribution to the UN's primary responsibility: the maintenance of international peace and security'.

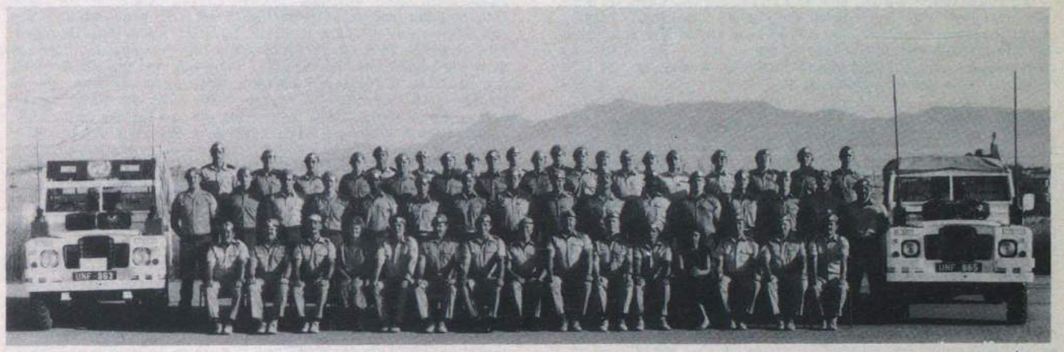
The Nobel Peace Prize citation states in part:-

'It is the considered opinion of the Committee that the Peace-keeping Forces through their efforts have made important contributions towards the realisation of one of the fundamental tenets of the United Nations. Thus the world organisation has come to play a more central part in world affairs and has been invested with increasing trust.

The Peace-keeping Forces are recruited from among the young people of many nations, who, in keeping with their ideals, voluntarily take on a demanding and hazardous service in the cause of peace. In the opinion of the Committee their efforts contribute in a particularly appropriate way towards the realisation of the goals of the United Nations.'

This is a proud day for the United Nations and for all of its peace-keeping forces, including UNFICYP. Among those who share their honour are the more than 100,000 men and women, both soldiers and civilians, who have served in UNFICYP since it was set up in 1964—including some who gave their lives in the cause of peace. The art of peace-keeping is one of the most significant innovations of the United Nations, but peace-keeping operations have not always been fully understood by the public. We are all gratified that this important work of the United Nations has now been recognised through such a great honour. The award of the Nobel Prize will be an added incentive for all of us as we continue to carry out the difficult job of maintaining peace.

I send my personal congratulations to all members of UNFICYP on this occasion and direct that all members of the Force be made aware of this Special Order of the Day.



254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron

AN UNDERGRADUATE'S VACATION

A Report by 2Lt P. S. Wilkinson

As an Undergraduate Cadetship Officer currently studying for a degree at Imperial College, London, in the summer I was obliged to be attached to a regular Royal Signals unit; I was very lucky in that I got an attachment to Belize.

Alighting from the VC10 as it landed in Belize, I was immediately struck by the differences between Belize and The United Kingdom; namely the heat, the abundance of mangrove swamps and the mosquitos to name but three things.

During my attachment, I spent two weeks at The British Joint Service Adventure Training Centre which is situated on a nearby Carribean island. Whilst there I managed to spend two week's sailing and sub-aqua diving.

A further week was spent participating with a Gurkha jungle patrol along a section of the Guatemalan border. I must have jinxed the Corporal who was leading the patrol, because he informed me that it was the first time in his 10 years of service that he had been 'topographically embarrassed'.

I spent the next two weeks helping **Capt Jim Dryburgh** to organise and carry out an archaeological expedition into the jungle. The aim of the expedition was to excavate a previously undiscovered Mayan Indian tomb. The expedition was very successful and culminated in the finding of many artefacts including a jade earring.

My final two weeks were spent in Venezuela courtesy of a passing Royal Navy frigate. In my four days aboard the ship, I realised why I had never contemplated joining the Navy!

My thanks must go to **Capts Jim Dryburgh, Barry Keegan** and **Lt Joe Cooper** and everybody else in Belize who helped to make my visit an enjoyable experience.

MERSEYSIDE ARMY CADET FORCE

Merseyside Army Cadet Force held its summer camp at Jurby Training Camp, Isle of Man. Nearly 400 cadets attended including 40 girl cadets. The 12 day programme included fieldcraft, assault course, firing competition rifles, map and compass, adventurous training exercises and a programme of abseiling and canoeing. A number of VIPs made special visits to the cadets and commented on the outstanding talents of the cadets on Merseyside.

The Garrison Commander took a lot of interest in the Signal Course held at the Annual Camp; also with him is the Merseyside ACF Commandant *(Right)* Col Graeme Davidson

CORPS SHOOTING 1988

by Maj I. R. C. Brown—Corps Secretary

1988 has not been our most successful year in terms of competitions won and silver collected with one or two notable exceptions; 37 Sig Regt (V) won TASAM and Queen's Gurkha Signals won the Series B (Iron Sight) Championship at RASAM. Queen's Gurkha Signals were also honoured for their consistency by being selected to represent the British Army in the Canadian Army Rifle Meeting in Ottawa. Our teams in the Inter Corps Target Rifle Match, the Methuen Cup and the NRA Service and Target Rifle Meetings did not enjoy the same success.

All is not gloom in Corps Shooting though, Corps SAM was a very enjoyable success with a record entry 143 competitors, likewise RASAM saw a strong corps contingent take part. The enthusiasm of the competitors is strong, senior officer interest growing and support welcomed. At last the importance of perhaps the weakest military skill (throughout the Army) is being recognised at all levels.

CORPS SAM

Held this year as usual on the Bulford/Perham Down range complex between 12-17 June. Eight major and 10 minor units teams took part; a record number mainly due to the small RA entry. Queen's Gurkha Signals won the Major Unit Championship with the School team second while 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn won the Minor Unit Championship with Comms and Sy Gp UK a close second and 233 Sig Sqn in third place.

The scores reflect a slight upward trend in standards and we must take heart from this. Nevertheless the general standard of shooting throughout the corps is very low and some of the results recorded in the rifle matches would not have gained a pass in the APWT. In consequence one must assume that the remainder of the regiment/unit's shooting standards are worse!

RASAM/TASAM

The Corps was represented at Bisley by five Major, six Minor Units and by two TA Regiments. Regrettably all were firing weapons fitted with Iron Sights so not in contention for major honours. Despite that Queen's Gurkha Signals won every match in the Series B Championship winning the Championship by 28 points from their nearest rivals. The School team achieved seventh place in the Championship and a creditable second place in the Section Match. Regrettably the remaining corps major units propped up the table being placed 14th—16 Sig Regt, 15th—14 Sig Regt and 16th (last)—21 Sig Regt.

Comms and Sy Gp was our highest placed minor unit in 10th place with 233 Sig Sqn 14th and 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn 15th. To be fair to the minor units they were in direct competition with SA80 Optical Sights where SA80 armed teams took four of the top five places.

Despite the range of standards some very notable team and individual results were recorded. Worthy of mention are **Sig Yamkumar** 14th, **Sgt Krishna** 18th, **Capt Lilbahadur** 76th in the Army 100, **Sgt Krishna** 4th in the Association Cup, **Sig Tanner** (21 SR) 1st class B in the Whittaker Trophy—(3 = overall). **Sgt Krishna** won the Sub Machine Gun Championship winning both Stage I and II. Queen's Gurkha Signals had 8 in the top 31 firers. **Lt Standen** (211 Sig Sqn) was beaten into second place in the Service Pistol Championship with a score of 404, 1 point behind the winner. **Capt Body** (School) was third in the Sniper Match.

Although we considered our performance poor, in the Methuen Cup, the Corps team finished in 16th place out of 29 teams. This year we selected 6 Queen's Gurkha Signals soldiers to form the team which was undoubtedly the correct decision, based on form and shooting skill but, one which did not bring the hoped for success.

NRA—SERVICE WEAPONS

This year we entered two-four man teams captained by **WO2 (SSM) J. R. Nation** from Comms and Sy Gp. The teams had mixed success in comparison to other years but they were in shoulder to shoulder competition with SA80 optic sight competitors.

NRA Medals were won as follows, **Capt Peck** (4) in the Sitting, Standing, Secretary of State and Kinnaird, **Sgt Carver** in the Stevens and **Cpl Ireland** in the Bisley Bullet.

TARGET RIFLE

Target Rifle has been the one discipline where both the corps teams and individuals have enjoyed better success. The season started in April when both UK and BAOR entered teams in the RAF Quadrangular match at Sennelager, the UK team winning the competition ably led, from the front, by **WO2 (YofS) B. J. Hayward**. Next came the Inter Corps TR Match at Bisley where the team was narrowly beaten into fourth place. Sadly this was the last occasion that **Lt Col R. S. Evans** will represent the corps for some time due to his posting to 9 Sig Regt. The National Rifle Association Meeting saw two members of the Corps team being selected for the army team, namely **Capt J. Body** and **WO2 (YofS) B. J. Hayward** with **Cpl P. J. Alden** selected as first reserve. All three went on to win NRA Medals with high scores in individual matches.

The season ended on a high note when **Maj I. R. C. Brown, Capt J. Body** and **WO2 Hayward** won the Gueterbock Cup at Pilning Range, Bristol on Sunday 18 September, against a strong field of 18 teams.

CONCLUSIONS

1988 has been a disappointing year, so far as results are concerned, after starting so full of promise. The root cause of our lack of success stems from overworked, undermanned units paying little or no attention to that fundamental skill—marksmanship. With only a few exceptions corps shooting will never return to its heyday of 1970/71 unless we return to basics and teach marksmanship principles and devote the same effort and enthusiasm to weapon training and range work as that given to BFT, First Aid and NBC training.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL—ARMY SIX-A-SIDE COMPETITION

Report by Lt Col G. S. (Pat) Massey

The School of Signals retained the Aston Martin Lagonda Trophy when they won the Army Six-a-Side Championships at Aldershot on 6 October. Success was not achieved without one or two hiccups on the way.

Drawn in what was to prove to be the most difficult of the two Preliminary Groups, they started off in great style beating 5 UDR (6—0), SEME Bordon (4—0) and HQ Engr Resources (6—1). Then came for them the one 'crisis point' of the day when they were surprisingly easily beaten by 17 Trg Regt RA by two goals to nil. The wobble continued in Game 5 when they were fortunate to get a point from a 1—1 draw with 8 Sig Regt. They got their act together again, however, and beat 3 LI by five goals to one before toppling top of the table 45 Fd Regt RA, in the final Group match, by six goals to two to qualify for the semi-final ties as winners of their Group B. 45 Fd Regt RA were the second side to qualify from this Group.

The Postal and Courier Depot RE dropped only one point in winning Group A and that was to 38 Engr Regt RE who also qualified as runners-up with 11 points from 7 games.

In the semi-finals, Group B sides confirmed the obvious superiority of the draw, when the School of Signals comfortably beat 38 Engr Regt RE by four goals to two, and, 45 Fd Regt RE trounced PCD RE by five goals to one to set up a repeat of the earlier clash when the Signalmen were convincing winners.

The final tie was a keenly contested affair in which the School always had the edge. They ran up a first half lead of two goals and sat on this until late in the game when the Gunners scored. The School then stepped up the pace, added a third goal, and were worthy winners.

Maj Alan Dobson, the recently retired Secretary of the Army Football Association, representing the competition sponsors Aston Martin Lagonda, presented the coveted trophy to **Cpl Mick Cheetham**, the 'hero' of many recent cup successes, who was wearing a School of Signals shirt for the last time before taking up a professional career with Ipswich Town, and, appointed Captain for the day. They completed a clean sweep by winning the Thorpe Trophy, a cup presented by a former Chairman of Army Football **Brig Bob Thorpe** (late RCT), to be awarded to the team scoring the most goals in the 'Group Matches', with a record number of 28 goals.

— Movements —

Officers

OCTOBER 1988

Rank and Name	Unit to which posted
Lt Col G. M. Finney	HQ AFNorth (BAE)
Lt Col R. J. Holmes	ACDS (Concepts)
Lt Col R. M. J. Hussey	7 Sig Regt
Lt Col A. T. B. Kimber	ACDS (Prog)
Lt Col D. J. Lowe	Project Wavell Mil Team
Lt Col J. P. Munnery	School of Signals
Lt Col E. W. Penny	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Lt Col A. J. Schuler	DCDS (Prog and Per)
Lt Col R. W. Stark	SHAPE (BAE)
Lt Col S. L. A. J. Hill	11 Sig Regt (pending retirement)
Maj J. Boyle	30 Sig Regt
Maj A. Duncan	31 Sig Regt (V)
Maj J. L. Fletcher	202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Maj C. E. Homewood	71 Sig Regt (V)
Maj R. A. McKay	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Maj D. F. Palmer	RACISG Larkhill
Maj D. G. Proctor	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Gar
Maj J. H. Richardson	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. L. Tricker	QG Sig Regt
Capt G. W. Bartliff	16 Sig Regt
Capt N. R. Davies	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt A. C. Doane	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt J. Dryburgh	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Gar
Capt M. D. Fogg	259 Sig Sqn
Capt L. R. Harvey	QG Sig Regt
Capt R. W. Lockwood	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt S. J. Long	9 Sig Regt
Capt J. E. Lovell	School of Signals
Capt R. G. Mills	22 Sig Regt
Capt B. P. Neillings	16 Sig Regt
Capt G. T. Nelson	11 Sig Regt
Capt P. D. Robinson	28 Sig Regt
Capt G. M. Smith	School of Signals
Lt D. I. Whimpenny	7 Sig Regt
2Lt W. D. Fathers	Cambridge University OTC
2Lt G. W. Fletcher	School of Signals
2Lt D. J. Foulkes	School of Signals
2Lt R. D. Meinertzhagen	School of Signals
2Lt J. L. Smart	School of Signals
2Lt A. B. Stocker	School of Signals
2Lt P. I. Turner	School of Signals

WOs and SNCOs

OCTOBER 1988

Rank and name	Unit to which posted
WO1 (YofS) A. T. Bodimeade	11 Sig Regt
WO1 K. M. Hall	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO1 R. T. O'Hara	28 Sig Regt
WO1 T. M. Ponton	36 Cadet Training Team
WO1 (FofS) S. C. Randle	School of Signals
WO1 (FofS) S. K. Rackham	School of Signals
AWO1 B. C. Howe	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. J. Boxall	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 M. J. Harkin	HQ 11 Sig Bde
WO2 (FofS) P. Leach	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) A. W. McMahon	QG Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) J. E. Storey	243 Sig Sqn
AWO2 S. K. Eynon	JCUFI
AWO2 (YofS) D. H. Jones	28 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. G. O'Callaghan	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt W. A. S. Allen	School of Signals
SSgt J. G. Cakebread	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) C. F. Harden	16 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) D. R. Leaning	HQ 2 Sig Bde
SSgt A. A. Muir	9 Sig Regt
SSgt B. D. Payne	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt P. W. K. Sixsmith	22 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Thompson	11 Sig Regt
SSgt S. Thompson	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt R. J. Williams	School of Signals
SSgt M. J. Wilton	33 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt P. R. Atkinson	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. P. Boyle	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt P. J. Charles	37 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt D. Curgenven	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. J. Cole	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt L. Deeming	30 Sig Regt
ASSgt G. P. Frazer	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. H. Gilbert	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt K. M. Munnelly	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt N. Turnbull	28 Sig Regt
Sgt A. D. Allen	640 Sig Tp
Sgt M. D. Aubrey	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt B. J. Barnes	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. E. Bashford	21 Sig Regt
Sgt H. A. Board	642 Sig Tp
Sgt B. Burns	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Campbell	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. J. Churchward	8 Sig Regt
Sgt N. R. Coatsworth	11 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Cook	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Cook	11 Sig Regt
Sgt T. M. Cowan	21 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Desmond	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. Fenton	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Fuller	1 RS
Sgt D. B. Gill	608 Sig Tp
Sgt M. J. Harvey	63 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. S. Hilton	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Hoy	1 R Anglian
Sgt D. A. H. Hunt	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. M. James	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. John	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. V. Kennedy	633 Sig Tp
Sgt C. A. Lambert	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Latimer	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Lawrence	Scarborough Trg Centre
Sgt P. A. Leighton	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt N. Middlecoate	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. P. Mountain	HQ BAOR
Sgt M. Mulhearn	30 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. McAlpine	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. McDonald	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. S. Neal	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Padmore	1 RGJ
Sgt W. J. Redstone	ACIO Exeter
Sgt G. L. Russell	RAF Mount Pleasant
Sgt E. R. Shackleton	HQ AFNorth Sig Security Section
Sgt J. A. Simpson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. F. Slade	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. D. O. Smith	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Smith	School of Signals
Sgt G. Smith	Army Personnel Selection Gp
Sgt L. Storey	SHAPE Sig Gp
Sgt C. P. Thompson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. T. Toner	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt C. Turner	9 Sig Regt
Sgt D. S. Whiting	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. E. Williams	ACIO Swansea
Sgt K. R. Winkles	7 Sig Regt
ASgt R. Baston	8 Sig Regt
ASgt A. C. Bentley	38 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt G. N. Chadwick	7 Sig Regt
ASgt S. Clark	39 Hy Regt RA
ASgt R. Clarke	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt N. G. Fletcher	22 Sig Regt
ASgt T. K. Glover	262 Sig Sqn
ASgt P. J. Harris	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt M. P. Hodkinson	16 Sig Regt
ASgt J. G. J. Hughes	14 Sig Regt
ASgt A. Hunter	14 Sig Regt
ASgt J. W. Prowse	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. J. Ralph	22 Sig Regt
ASgt M. R. Reed	2 RGJ
ASgt M. H. Tharme	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt C. J. Wilcock	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt A. R. Yeaman	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt

Officers

NOVEMBER 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col J. R. B. Cook	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col D. O'Connor	School of Signals
Lt Col A. E. G. Truluck	CGS
Lt Col R. M. Yolland	RSRE (PE) (AE)
Maj T. Bushell	16 Sig Regt
Maj T. R. Gainford	8 Sig Regt
Maj M. C. Gilyeat	7 Sig Regt
Maj D. B. Jones	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj C. L. LeGallais	RMAS
Maj C. S. Mason	11 Sig Regt
Maj P. T. McGann	DSS (AD)
Maj K. R. McRae	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Maj J. R. S. Ovenden	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj C. J. Rayner	11 Sig Regt
Maj C. J. Rayner	HQ EDist
Maj S. J. Smith	11 Sig Regt
Maj M. R. G. Stockdale	JCUFI
Capt M. D. W. Alexander	211 Sig Sqn
Capt P. Cain	22 Sig Regt
Capt S. Evans	16 Sig Regt
Capt P. J. Filby	HQ NI
Capt A. D. Gallie	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt F. N. Grant	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
Capt M. Griffiths	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt P. A. Hodgkiss	21 Sig Regt
Capt R. A. James	DSS (AD)
Capt J. G. Peck	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
Lt A. S. Addison	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt W. E. H. Adsett	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt M. C. Burke	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt G. R. Grant	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt C. J. McIntosh	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt L. J. Mitchell	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. L. Munro	22 Sig Regt
Lt P. C. O'Connor	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt S. M. Payne	7 Sig Regt
Lt A. D. J. Picknell	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt B. Alderson	16 Sig Regt
2Lt B. A. Appleby	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt R. B. Forrest	14 Sig Regt
2Lt S. G. Hutchinson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt A. P. Scott	22 Sig Regt
2Lt I. A. Walton	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt S. S. M. Youngson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt

NOVEMBER 1988

Rank and name	Unit to which posted
WO1 M. E. Pawlack	QG Sig Regt
AWO1 S. R. Davies	33 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 K. V. Baker	BDLS Australia
WO2 D. A. Coker	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) R. A. Downie	JCUFI
WO2 S. Hilton	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) A. T. Kennedy	School of Signals
WO2 S. L. McKechnie	16 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) P. J. Wykes	633 Sig Tp
AWO2 R. A. Bailey	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) R. Hamilton	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) I. Hugill	Rocchan (Balado Bridge)
AWO2 E. D. Jones	16 Sig Reg
AWO2 (YofS) G. M. Robinson	SANGCOM
SSgt W. F. Abbott	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt D. A. M. Bennett	BR Cont UNFICYP
SSgt R. Cassidy	33 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. J. Davey	School of Signals
SSgt P. Dixon	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. V. Doherty	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. J. Honey	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
SSgt F. Hutchinson	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt W. J. Ironside	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt D. A. Mitchell	8 Sig Regt
SSgt P. McFarlane	8 Sig Regt
SSgt J. McKendrick	ACIO Dundee
SSgt J. W. Shiels	8 Sig Regt
SSgt A. Sullivan	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt T. Swanney	ACIO Bradford
SSgt R. Thompson	21 Sig Regt
SSgt S. Tupling	7 Sig Regt
SSgt C. E. Ward	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. R. Acklaw	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. J. Ashley	37 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt S. Carr	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt G. J. Martin	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. Alexander	BR Contingent UNFICYP
Sgt A. J. Anderson	9 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Bagshaw	28 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Bateman	13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Booth	School of Signals
Sgt J. Bragg	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. F. Brint	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. R. Christie	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt S. Clarkson	640 Sig Tp
Sgt P. A. Court	School of Signals
Sgt P. R. Crawley	School of Signals
Sgt G. P. Cross	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. A. Cumming	HQ AFCENT
Sgt S. J. Ferguson	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. P. Flagg	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Glay	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt M. Gear	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt W. C. E. Grattidge	HAC
Sgt G. S. Guy	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt D. E. Hall	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Hancock	254 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Hardy	School of Signals
Sgt M. E. G. Heelan	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt S. J. Kelly	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Lane	School of Signals
Sgt P. T. Laycock	ACIO Birmingham
Sgt B. E. MacKey	ACIO Darlington
Sgt L. V. Martin	RMAS
Sgt S. P. Oliver	632 Sig Tp
Sgt L. C. Parker	22 Sig Regt
Sgt E. Patterson	ACIO Chatham
Sgt S. B. Penn	14 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Quantick	School of Signals
Sgt P. J. C. Reeve	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. W. Scott	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. T. Sheehan	1 QO Hldrs (Highlanders)
Sgt N. T. Stirk	School of Signals
Sgt R. Stoppard	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. E. Street	13 Sig Regt
Sgt I. M. J. Stringer	School of Signals
Sgt K. D. Talbot	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. B. Taylor	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt B. J. Thomas	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Sgt D. I. Thomas	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. P. Tough	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt N. M. Wadey	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt S. J. Weldon	School of Signals
Sgt A. C. Wood	38 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt K. M. Belam	SHAPE Sig Gp
ASgt A. J. Deary	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt P. S. Gee	22 Sig Regt
ASgt D. Keevash	1 DWR
ASgt A. McClean	632 Sig Tp
ASgt S. Naylor	8 Sig Regt
ASgt S. P. Smith	321 EOD

SPECIALIST SIGNAL OFFICER

THE SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES OF OMAN

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The officer is required to take up his post by January 1989. Interested applicants should write with details of their qualifications and experience, including contact telephone number and photograph to:

Recruitment Division
Charles Kendall and Partners Ltd
7 Albert Court, Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BJ
Ref: MPP/125

Welfare

The Corps Welfare Department located at RHQ provides support for all serving, TA and ex-members of the Corps and their families in time of need.

Money for this work is provided from The Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund to which the majority of the Corps family generously subscribe, through the One-Day's Pay Scheme for serving members and donations from the TA, our Branches and retired members.

Our work is also supported by many other charitable organisations most of which are household names among service personnel. We shall publish, from time to time, information which we feel you should know about—the work done by the Army Benevolent Fund, SSAFA, BLESMA, ex Services Mental Welfare Society, The Royal British Legion and others—caring for service families. We all work as a team.

However, it is not always financial help that is required. Sometimes simply feeling lonely, all alone, burdened with worry, just needing someone around to share your anxiety—a visit from a caring, understanding person is what is needed.

In dealing with welfare cases we require a written report from SSAFA and it will speed matters if you approach the nearest SSAFA representative first. They will then contact us in Regimental Headquarters. Do not however, hesitate to contact the Welfare Department, in writing, if a local SSAFA representative is not readily available.

Put your problem, in writing, to the Welfare Section. Every case is considered on merit and with sympathy. If the help you require falls outside our work we shall refer you to an appropriate agency.

Join your Association—Support your local Branch.

THE EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society was founded in 1919 to fill a vital gap in welfare provision for the many soldiers from the trenches of the Great War who were suffering shell shock, and those from the Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps, Royal Air Force and Merchant Navy who were also grievously affected in mind as a result of their war experiences.

It was an uphill fight to gain recognition that they needed help at a time when punishment for 'cowardice' was not uncommon. However, over the last seventy years, the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society has helped many tens of thousands of unfortunate ex-service men and women and is still the only organisation which specialises in helping all ranks who suffer from psychiatric disabilities.

In the late 1980's the Society faced increasing demands for help. Most second world war veterans—the bulk of our patients—are now retired or widowed, possibly both. They have lost the prop, job or spouse, that has kept them going, and are in need of more support at the very time when they are less able to help themselves. The Society provides that help, through long and short-stay Homes, through assistance with claims and appeals for War Disability Pensions, through home and hospital visiting and through limited financial aid. Younger clients regularly approach the Society for help as a result of the 'peace time' campaigns such as the Falklands and service in Northern Ireland, and it seems likely that there will be a need for the Society well into the twenty-first century. It is only through the generosity of voluntary subscribers who provide the major part of the Society's funds that we can hope to meet our growing commitment to serve the increasing number of clients and continue to improve the standard of our welfare services to them.

Enquiries about the work of the Society and offers of help are always welcome. Please contact the General Secretary, Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway House, The Broadway, London SW19 1RL or telephone 01-543-6333.

EX-SERVICES FELLOWSHIP CENTRES

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. Fees are maintained within the limits which DHSS will pay for those without more than the laid-down level of capital resources. Those interested should apply to: The Administrator, Ex-Service Fellowship Centres, 8 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EP.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

Leaving the Forces? If so RFEA are ready to help you with your resettlement in the UK, and in particular to help you find suitable employment. If you have served with good character in the non-commissioned ranks for a minimum of three years, or less if you are being discharged on medical grounds, the Association's services are available to you at no cost.

We are part of the Forces Resettlement Service and, with over a 100 years of experience behind us, operate through 40 Branches throughout the UK where our Employment Officers are in close contact with employers.

If you need our help, write to us at Head Office, 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you are leaving the services you should consider the wide range of employment possibilities available through The Corps of Commissionaires—Office Management, Building Management, Technical Trades, Security, Warehouse.

Contact 01-353-1125 for further information and address of your nearest office.

THE ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS

The Home, which was founded in 1851, offers 32 places for elderly but reasonably active widows whose husbands served in the ranks at some stage of their Army career, and it cares for them for the rest of their lives. The Home has links with the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

There are comfortable bed-sitting rooms for each of the residents, who are encouraged to take part in local life, go on outings, have visitors and prepare some simple meals for themselves. As they grow older, there are Care Assistants to help them, and if they become infirm they are looked after in a nursing ward.

The Superintendent, Mrs A. M. Webb, will be glad to give more information if required.

WAR PENSIONERS WELFARE SERVICE

All cases of personnel who are invalided from the Army are automatically forwarded to DSS (War Pensions) for consideration of eligibility for a disabled award.

For those who leave on normal retirement or discharge this is not automatic and application has to be made direct by the individual him/herself to DSS (WP) with full details of the injury or disease, which is considered to be either attributable to, or aggravated by, his/her Army service. Such claims should be made by letter, with supporting medical evidence, direct to: DSS (War Pensions), Norcross, Blackpool, Lancs FY5 3TA.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED PILGRIMAGES TO WAR GRAVES

These conducted pilgrimages are not restricted to Legion members or relatives of those buried overseas. Anyone of any age can apply.

For further information please write to: The Pilgrimage Department, The Royal British Legion, British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NX or telephone (0622) 76729/76182.

THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICE AND THE SMALL BUSINESS LOAN SCHEME

The Legion has always been concerned with the employment needs of ex-Service people and with a trend towards self employment and small business, the Legion has started a Small Business Advisory Service which is intended to supplement the existing Government advisory schemes and work closely with them.

Together with the Service is the Small Business Loan Scheme which will consider applications from unemployed ex-Service people who require financial help to start their own business.

The Small Business Advisory Officer,
Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NL.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1988:

Capt E. J. Brooks	£100.00
St Boniface Church, Rheindahlen	£ 61.54
Manning & Record Office, Glasgow	£52.70
R. H. Blizard	£ 35.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
WO2 Cuckow	£ 10.00
RSA Scarborough	£ 10.00
Misc	£ 3.90
	£283.14

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1988:-

From the estate of F. C. Forbes	£100.00
HQ Sqn and 83 Sig Sqn of 31 Sig Regt	£ 95.00
Sgt P. Atkinson	£ 50.00
WO2 (RQMS) O. Chnetri	£ 50.00
Glassop RSA	£ 25.00
Lt Col B. O. Haw	£ 23.00
J. E. Foulds	£ 20.00
J. Gatehouse	£ 20.00
J. R. E. Way	£ 20.00
Bristol Branch REME Association	£ 15.00
H. A. Sims	£ 5.80
R. L. Cartwright	£ 5.00
'Gillespie'	£ 5.00
G. R. Thornton	£ 2.50
Misc	£ 1.90
	£438.20

Who cares what happens when you leave the Services?

The Royal British Legion does.

When you join us you can continue to enjoy all the best you get from Service life. Think of all the friends you make, the tremendous feeling of belonging and the team spirit. The Royal British Legion offers you all this and the chance to help those less fortunate than yourself.

The Royal British Legion has 3,500 branches throughout the UK and Worldwide including B.A.O.R. Don't wait until you leave the Services to join up. Join us now – there's no better time.

Fill in the coupon below or telephone 01-930 8131.

PLEASE TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.

Name_____

Address_____

_____ Postcode_____

Telephone_____

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Send to: Department WIR1, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW17 5JY.

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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

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 40 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

Ackroyd—Lt H. C. Ackroyd—1939-1945—died 28 September 1988.

Camplin—ex Sgt J. R. Camplin—served 1964-88—died 20 September 1988.

Coomber—Cpl N. R. Coomber (9 Sig Regt)—died 6 September 1988.

Dagg—Lt Col S. J. Dagg MBE—served 1933-58—died 11 October 1988.

Dale—Maj A. R. B. B. Dale MBE—died 8 June 1988.

Dickinson—WO1 R. E. Dickinson—died 1 September 1988.

Gay—ex LCpl C. G. W. Gay—served 1940-1946—died 14 July 1988.

Hallett—Lt Col C. W. Hallett—served 1937-72—died 5 October 1988.

Harvey—Lt Col R. J. Harvey—died 4 August 1988.

Hewitt—Maj J. P. Hewitt—served 1934-58—died 3 November 1988.

Knight—In-Pensioner SQMS M. Knight—served 1923-47—died 11 October 1988

Linton—Col R. Linton OBE—served 1933-64—died 17 October 1988

Pyper—Capt J. A. Pyper—died 31 July 1988.

Roderick—Maj A. B. Roderick—died 1 November 1988.

Sawers—Maj Gen J. M. Sawers CB, MBE—served 1939-75—died 29 August 1988.

Shaw—Sgt D. C. Shaw—died 17 September 1988.

Sinclair—In-Pensioner (ex WO1) H. J. Sinclair—served 1928-1958—died 15 November 1988.

Swan—Maj T. B. Swan—served 1946-73—died 12 September 1988.

Telfer—Maj J. Telfer—served 1930-67—died 23 September 1988

Wainman—Mrs Alice Janet Wainman—widow of **Capt P. Wainman**—died October 1988.

OBITUARIES

Evans—Maj A. C. Evans TD—It is with much regret that the Chairman, Secretary and all members of Aberdeen Branch report the death of **Alexander Evans**, a life member of the Association and a much respected member of our Branch. We send condolences to his widow and family.

Goodanew—Maj A. A. Goodanew ERD—It is with regret that we report the death of **Maj A. A. Goodanew** which occurred on 12 September after illness. A life member of the Royal Signals Association (Bath Branch) he served in the Corps from 1928-1945. He was in Gibraltar for several years before the war and with the BEF in Dunkirk. Subsequently he was appointed Adjutant at Catterick before joining SOE. **Maj Goodanew** leaves a wife **Kathleen**, who lives in Bath and a daughter **Hilary**.

Gosling—WO2 (RQMS) Jack Gosling—was born on 29 July 1932, and joined the Corps as a National Serviceman in the early 1950's, serving in BAOR and Catterick, as a Radio Op, and for some time as a Junior NCO instructor. Like many of his vintage, he decided to continue his service in the TA, becoming a Sergeant, and subsequently, SQMS of 336 Sig Sqn, in 146 Inf Bde. He continued in this capacity in the newly formed 49 (WR) Sig Sqn, in 1967, becoming its SSM in 1970. He later became RQMS of 34 Sig Regt (V), which he held until the completion of his service, and he qualified for a bar to his Efficiency Medal (TA).

With his other hat on he spent many years in the clothing trade, holding managerial posts, but eventually he realised one of his lifelong ambitions, and became 'Mine Host' at two successful local hostelries. Regrettably he contracted a very severe form of cancer, and he died in the autumn of 1987 at the early age of 55.

Hope—Maj G. W. E. Hope. It is with deep regret that we report the death of **Maj George Hope** on 3 December 1987. **Bob**, as he was known to all, joined the Corps as a boy soldier on 29 September 1950. During the next 36 years **Bob** served in the UK, BAOR, France (53-55), Korea (55-56), Middle East Land Forces (56-59), Near Eastern Land Forces (69-72) and Northern Ireland.

Bob was appointed to a Commission in the Corps in 1976. He then served in 28 Sig Regt, Northern Ireland, 8 Sig Regt, 21 Sig Regt and finally 608 Sig Tp. Due to illness, **Bob** took early retirement in 1986.

Throughout his 36 years **Bob** took more than just a keen interest in Football, Boxing and Triathlon. Indeed, during the late seventies he managed the 28 Sig Regt football team to success in the Army Cup Final.

He leaves a widow **Brenda**, daughter **Gillian** and his three sons who all followed him into the Corps; **Sgt Robert Hope** of 28 Sig Regt, **Sgt Michael Hope** of 602 Sig Tp and **LCpl Stephen Hope** of 207 Sig Sqn.

Maynard. Brig R. F. Maynard MBE, BSc(Eng), the Corps was deeply saddened to learn of **Russell**'s untimely death by drowning on 15 July 1988. Prior to taking up an appointment in SHAPE, he was in Rome attending the NATO Defence College. The tragedy occurred during an end-of-course beach party attended by course members and their families. Seeing some children in difficulties in the water **Russell** without hesitation went to their assistance. Tragically, although the children were saved, **Russell** and a Danish colleague, exhausted by their efforts, were overwhelmed by the rough seas.

Russell was born in India in 1940, where his father was serving in the Royal Artillery. He was educated at Campbell College, Belfast, Welbeck College and Sandhurst, before being commissioned into the Corps in 1960.

After 48 Q Course at Catterick and regimental duties he attended the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham. He then served with 6 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn before commanding 661 Sig Tp on the assault ship *Intrepid*, a truly world wide assignment. During two years as an instructor at the School of Signals he married **Marguerite** at a fine military wedding in Wimborne Minster. A competitive vacancy to the Staff College Camberley followed.

After a period on the ASD staff in the MOD, where he was much involved with the 1974 Defence Review and was awarded the MBE, he commanded 4 Gds Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Munster and then served a further year in London with MGO Secretariat before returning to Shrivenham as a member of the Directing Staff.

During 1980/81 he was Commander Royal Signals in Northern Ireland for which he received a Mention in Despatches; then on promotion he served as the DACOS G3 (Coord) at Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces.

In 1985 he became Commander Training Group and Garrison Commander at Catterick in succession to his elder brother. This also gave him ample opportunity to indulge his favourite pastimes of beagling, shooting and walking his spaniel Muffin.

Russell was a perfectionist who expected others to match the high standards he set himself. Extremely capable and efficient he excelled as a staff officer where his clarity of thought, speech and writing were much to the fore. In command, he was fair, sympathetic and understanding with those who worked for him.

A Memorial Service for **Russell** was held in Salisbury Cathedral on Thursday 29 September 1988. The first lesson was read by his son, **Matthew**, and the second by **The Master of Signals**. The address was given by the **Signal Officer-in-Chief(Army)**.It was a fitting tribute to **Russell**'s life and work that so many friends and service colleagues should join his family in this Service of Thanksgiving. The Corps Band provided a moving and poignant part to the Service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Marguerite, Matthew** and **Rebecca** for the terrible experience they shared that day in Italy and our sincere sympathy goes to them, and **Russell**'s family, in their tragic loss.

Richings—Syd, known as **Geordie**, died 28 August at The Duchess of Kent Military Hospital, Catterick Garrison. After enlisting at Pocklington, Yorks in 1947 **Syd** served in MELF, BAOR, FARELF, Singapore, Borneo and finished his service at Catterick as WO2. Following his discharge in 1967 he worked as a BIA but had to retire due to ill health. He lived at Colburn where he became involved in several local clubs. He was a founder member of the Leek Club and was Secretary until the time of his death. He is sadly missed by his wife, **Gerda**, daughter **Margaret** and granddaughter **Amanda**.

Stockill—Capt J. E. Stockill died on 17 October 1988 at Reading. A friend has written of him: **Jim** was born at Lancaster on 29 December 1926 of an army family; his father was then serving in the Kings Own Royal Regiment. In 1932 the family went to Egypt

and in 1934 moved to India where the Regiment was stationed at Wellington in the Nilgiri Hills in southern India. During this period **Jim** went to various schools in the locality but in 1936 became a boarder at the Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School at Lovedale which was also situated in the Nilgiris.

In 1942, at the age of 16 **Jim** enlisted as a boy in Royal Signals and was trained as an operator at the STC (British) at Mhow in Central India. When he left Mhow in June 1944 he joined a unit on the North West Frontier and, shortly before his twentieth birthday, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

In 1946 he returned to the UK to Pendine where he met and married his first wife **Peggy**. **Jim** was commissioned from Mons OCS in November 1953 and in February 1954 arrived in Freetown to join Sierra Leone Signal Squadron, RWAFF. **Peggy** and their son **John** joined him shortly after this but in December 1954 the family returned to the UK due to **Peggy**'s ill health.

Between 1955 and early 1970 **Jim** served at regimental duty in the UK, BAOR and Singapore. Returning to the UK in 1970 he spent two years in the Quality Assurance Directorate in MOD(PE). In 1972 he was on the staff at HQ 3 Sig Gp in Cyprus returning once more to the UK in late 1974. In May of 1976 he suffered the loss of **Peggy**.

He retired from the active list in January 1977 and was employed as a Retired Officer in the Manning and Record Office at Reading where he became known to many in the Corps. In April of that year he married **Jane**, widow of **Maj Jim Hewson** of the Corps, who also had two sons. When the M&RO moved to Glasgow **Jim** was posted to the Signals Directorate in the MOD as RO 3 (Recruiting), a post which he filled until his death. Thus ended an unbroken spell of service to the Corps lasting nearly half a century.

Jim was my friend for 35 of those years and one could not find a kinder, more considerate or more loyal colleague. His quiet sense of humour often relieved the gloom of difficult days and helped us all to see things in perspective. He was a keen rifle shot and games player who thoroughly enjoyed his soldiering and he bore his final illness with dignity and great courage. He was a truly gentle man who will be greatly missed by his extended family and his many friends. The thoughts and prayers of those friends are with **Jane** and both their families in their bereavement.

Sweeney—ex Sgt George Joseph Sweeney. It is with regret that we publish the death of **George Sweeney** which occured on 25 October, aged 83 years. He served in the Corps from 1924-43 when he was medically discharged. Much of his service was spent in India as a wireless operator in NW Frontier Signals in Peshawar and Wazaristan. He was awarded the IGSM. **George Sweeny** was a long time member of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club. A friend of **Joe Cotterell** he will probably be best remembered as a Corps and Army boxer. He was a fine swimmer and won a swimming championship in Bearsfield in 1925. We extend sympathy to his widow and son.

Veness. Frank Veness MBE died in Reading on 9 July at the age of 83.

Frank's Colour Service in the Corps between 1924 and 1932 included a period with the Shanghai Defence Force Signals and with 4 Div Sigs at Colchester.

He will, however, probably be best remembered for his long service at Royal Signals Records, commencing at Chatham in March 1934 and finally ending with his retirement from the Reading Office in 1972, and particularly as OIC Division 2. It was a source of great pleasure to friends and colleagues when he was awarded the MBE in 1964 in recognition of his services to the Record Office and the Corps. It is noted that **Frank** served under no less than fourteen Officers-in-Charge of Records, starting with **Col C. W. M. Firth MC**.

Since his retirement, **Frank** had been an active member of the Reading Branch of the Royal Signals Association, giving good support to the various Branch activities. He always had a smile for everyone and was the perfect gentleman in every way. He will be greatly missed.

The Corps was represented at the Cremation Service by the Chairman and various members of the Reading Branch.

Brunton—Maj (Retd) Billy Brunton MSM—A Royal Corps of Signals headstone to **Maj Billy Brunton MSM** (Burma Star) was dedicated on 21 October 1988 by **Rev Douglas Aitken** in Dunfermline Cemetery. Members of the Royal Corps of Signals were present at the Service.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

WIRE AND JOURNAL—SERVING OFFICERS

The Annual subscription rates for *The Wire* is £4.20. Individual copies may be ordered at 70p. Subscription forms for *The Wire* are published in the September and November issues of *The Wire* each year.

RETIRED OFFICERS

This is £10 pa. One flat rate. This brings you:-

- Institution membership and three Journals pa;
- Games Club and Yacht Club membership;
- *The Wire*, six copies pa;
- The White List, Active List and Retired Supplement;
- Officers' Dinner Club Membership, (though you must pay the 50% subsidised cost of the Corps Dinner and Corps Luncheon if you wish to attend).

You do not have to accept all or any of the publications. If you do not want them, we will not send them. **But it still costs you £10** whatever you decide to take.

Alternatively, you may opt to be listed in the RHQ records only, at **no cost**. If this is your choice, you will only receive a Retired Supplement to the White List and the Newsletter in November each year. That is all. This service is free. A pro forma is attached at the back of the Retired Supplement.

FOR SALE

Sergeant's Mess Dress: As new. Only worn four times. Contact **Sgt Ibberson**: Lisburn Mil 42185/186.

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

The Royal Signals Games Club provides assistance to Corps glider and hang glider pilots with financial aid towards meeting flying and competition expenses. If you fly gliders either as a pilot under training, or as solo pilot you may qualify for a grant towards your expenses. Royal Signals pilots should forward their individual claims without delay for grants from the Corps Games Club for the period December 1987 to November 1988 to:-

Maj A. V. Harkins Royal Signals
243 Sig Sqn
Salisbury SP4 9NY

The following personal and flying details are required to support your claim:-

- Full name, unit and address of claimant.
- Flying fees paid in the period, less any sum received from other sources in respect of these fees.
- Name and address of Club or Clubs.
- Number of launches flown in 1988.
- Results of competitions, or badge attempts (if any).
- Competition expenses.
- Qualifications held (if any).
- Details of claimants UK bank; account number, bank sorting code and name and address of bank.

Do not be deterred from making a claim because you have just started gliding. All members of Royal Signals and WRAC serving with Royal Signals are eligible.

PERSONAL

Information wanted on the subsequent career of **Sgt Jennison**, who was the Signals PSI at Cambridge University OTC in the mid-30s, by his old cadets. Please contact **Maj Cocke**, 12 Grosvenor Hill, London SW19 4SA—Tel: 01-946-4618.

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

REUNIONS

ALDERSHOT BRANCH—A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Association's Aldershot Branch issues a cordial invitation to all past and present Members of the Corps and their wives to join them at a truly seasonal function on Tuesday 13 December 1988—Noon for 12.30 pm.

Please contact **Lt Col D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Field Way, Aldershot, Hants GU11 4UL if you would like to attend this new Association event at the Royal Aldershot Officers Club. The cost for each person attending will be £12. Tickets will not be issued; neither will a receipt be given, unless requested.

602 ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

Our next annual dinner will take place in Harrogate at the International Hotel (at greatly reduced prices) on 29/30 April 1989.

All serving members and ex members of the troop and their families are most welcome to attend. Enquiries to our Secretary: **Mr Dave Smedley**, 5 Old Rectory Close, Powick, Worcester WR2 4QU. Tel: 0905 831705 or **Mr Ken Purnell**, 31 Skelton Road, Langthorpe, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire YO5 9GD. Tel: 0423 323407.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION

REUNION DINNER: 15 September 1989.

The OWA Reunion Dinner will be held at the School of Signals' Officers' Mess, Blandford, Dorset on Friday 15 September 1989.

Dress will be black tie and timings are 1930 hrs for 2000 hrs. The cost will be approximately £20.

Applications, including a contact address and telephone number should be sent to: The Adjutant, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN, or by telephoning: Worksop (0909) 476326 Extn 30.

Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

INDIA/BURMA 1942/46

It is hoped to arrange a reunion of members of 53 Indian Infantry Brigade Signal Section. In this connection ex **Cpl Fred 'Hank' Hancock** would be pleased if **Sig 'Parky' Parkinson** of the Liverpool/Birkenhead area would get in touch with him at 10 Le Page Court, Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3ES (Tel: (0602) 290357)).

A CAROL SERVICE AT ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN, ROCHESTER ROW, WESTMINSTER

An evening Service of Lessons and Carols, at which the Corps Band will play, is to take place in the Parish Church at St Stephen with St John, Westminster, on Tuesday 20 December 1988 at 1800 hrs.

It is hoped that members of the Corps and their families especially those serving in London TA Regiments, Association Branches, Chelsea Pensioners and Yeoman Warders, will attend this Service in the Corps affiliated London Church. Light refreshment will be available in the nearby Church Hall after the Service for all those who are able to stay.

Those wishing to attend the Service are asked to inform Regimental Headquarters so that seats may be reserved and refreshments ordered. Since the overall capacity of the Church is only 350, allocations will be made on a first come, first served, basis.

SITUATIONS VACANT

RETIRED OFFICER VACANCY
REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

A vacancy exists for an RO3 at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. The duties aer concerned with regimental domestic affairs and include welfare and benevolence, financial management, secretary to a variety of committees and Staff Officer to the Colonels Commandant.

Applicants, from any Arm, should have attained the rank of Major or above during their service.

Conditions of Service are as laid down in AGA1, Vol 2, Chapter 40 but exceptionally applications will also be considered from those who left the service more than five years ago. Some additional allowances may be negotiated.

Applications should be sent in the first instance to the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD; Tel: 01-930-4466, Ext 8242.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER VACANCY
REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

A vacancy will occur at the end of September 1989 in the Association Records Section at RHQ Royal Signals for an Administrative Officer (AO). The job specification is as follows:-

Day to day correspondence with 66 local branches of the Royal Signals Association (currently includes 8 Affiliated Unit OCA Branches); Maintaining Association Membership Records (currently kept on card index filing system but expected to go on to computer); Administration and Control of annual reunions at Blandford (May) and Catterick (June) each year; Administration and Control of Annual Branch Representatives Meeting (April) each year; Correspondence to retiring Officers and Other Ranks on leaving the Corps informing them of the affairs of the Association and putting them in touch with local branches near to their home address; Preparing Agenda and Minutes for the Association Central Committee Meetings (twice yearly), Branch Representatives Meeting (April) and Annual General Meeting (June) and finally; Maintaining the file on the Corps Church (St Stephen with St John Westminster) including Carol Services and Memorial Services.

Applications should be sent to The Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Typing skills are helpful but not essential. Living in the commuter belt around London would be advantageous.

CURATORIAL OFFICER GRADE E
ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM, BLANDFORD

A vacancy for a Curatorial Officer Grade E in the Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset, will exist and the successful candidate would be expected to take up the appointment in December 1988.

The appointment is concerned with the administration of the Museum and its staff with responsibility to the Chairman and Committee for all aspects connected with the daily running of the Museum, new works, financial control and budgetting, and liaison and negotiations with outside agencies. There is also specific responsibility for the Corps Museum Library, Archives and Photographic Collection.

Previous experience in the relevant field, or service in the Royal Signals will be an advantage.

Applications to: **Miss G. McCann**, Ministy of Defence, CM (A) 2 (5) 1, Room 244, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY. Telephone No 01 430 6820, with copies to: Regimental Secretary, Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD and Deputy Director, Royal Signals Museum, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Further information may be obtained from: Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals or the Deputy Director, Royal Signals Museum, London District Military or 01 930 4466, Extension 8240, Blandford Military or 0258 52581, Extension 2413.

LETTERS

From: M. G. Cooper

Dear Sir

Having noted the recent letters about setting records for time served, I wondered if I might 'stir the pot' with what I imagine might be another figure that will be hard to beat.

The basic technician course I underwent from mid 1975 to mid 1976 (PT 16) has to date yielded five Foremen of Signals. From the 15 of us who completed the course this represents a 33⅓% success rate (unless my maths fail me).

Are there any other Catterick courses or Harrogate intakes who can match or better this figure? If so I would be interested to find out.

For the record the other four from PT 16 are **FofS's Gig Plumb, Bob Downie, Bob Nicholson** and **Chris Shepherd.**

Yours faithfully
M. G. Cooper

Belize Defence Force
BFPO 12

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Jeremy Ellis**
2IC	**Capt Kevin Fisher**
	(designate) Capt Nick Davies
AO	**Capt Brian Williams REME**
RSM	**WO1 'Dixie' Dean**
FofS	**WO2 'Noddy' Baugh**
RQMS	**WO2 Bob Taylor**
MTWO	**WO2 Ian Mitchell RCT**
YofS	**WO2 Ron Coburn**
CC	**Sgt Gordon Whale**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt Jake Thackray**
2IC Comms Tp	**2Lt Simon Hutchinson**
Trg NCO	**Sgt Brian McClements**

Operations continue and we held a successful Battle Camp as you will read in the following report.

EXERCISE IRON FIST 88

Hi folks, contrary to popular gossip we do manage to get in some mandatory training despite a lot of grunting and groaning.

It all started off as usual with bags of prep and planning but at the last moment with a little assistance from Brigade the whole plan was doomed never to take place. With yet another barrier to overcome, we still managed to proceed.

The DS were raring to go but with nowhere to train the alternative programme was brought into action with the help of the staff at Magilligan Training Centre. After all the pre-planning and extra amendments that were imposed gossip soon got round that Battle Camp was off, 'tough luck it's still on lads' was the cry from the Training World.

First aid training was carried out by our **'Benny' (SSgt Donald Bennett)** who found out that Resussie Annie when complete was in fact a male, we will have to change Annie's name. Map reading was taken by **Sgt (soon to be SSgt) 'H' Hitchen** who managed to get his students lost in a classroom. NBC was taught by **Cpl 'Dai' Treeby** who insisted on covering his students in Fullers Earth and earned an appropriate nickname for himself. Our resident PTI was **Cpl Jacko Jackson** who also earned an unprintable nickname for running students into the ground on their arrival.

When range days arrived extra help was required and **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Taylor, SSgts Kev Bailey** and **Martin Leighfield** did a superb job with plenty of patience, notably with the likes of sniper **LCpl Max Maxwell** and dead eye dick **LCpl Lev Levitt** who helped others to pass their APWT, well almost, but managed to fail their own. The command task was hosted by **Lt Jake Thackray** who with a very apt scenario had the lads building a raft and floating it around a canoe and back to land to simulate an escape from terrorists territory.

As usual our cook **Sgt Bob Freeman** produced superb meals much to the delight of all involved, he even took time out to show the troops how to get the best from their 24 hour ration packs and left them with a tip—'don't drink water, unless you boil it first'.

Many thanks must be said to everyone involved, the list is too long to mention but we hope to see you all soon, especially our next door neighbours, Brigade HQ.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SYSCON OPERATOR
Written by an honorary ex member LCpl Smith

Over the past few months Syscon has seen quite a number of comings and goings. Far too many goings and not enough comings. In fact the last Syscon meeting was held on a pin-head.

Due to the rapid turnover it is normal practice to start shift by shaking hands with your shift partner, because you've probably never met before.

After completing a full and indepth handover/takeover from the off-going nightshift ('15 hours and I never slept once honest') yawn! The day gets into full swing, ie the first brew of the day is made. This usually incorporates every man and his dog including, now you see me, now you don't, **YofS Coburn** and **FofS Noddy Baugh** who must have ESP, the RSM who can hear a kettle being plugged in at 200m and the Squadron 2IC who must be the only man alive able to smell boiling water through two closed doors (sorry not enough cups you'll have to share and use straws).

During a busy day the shift will answer loads of phone calls and deal with many dockets which are swiftly redirected towards tech workships and other departments. Whilst on the subject of dockets, those deplorable things that fetch people from their beds at unsociable hours of the morning, we must announce a considerable decrease since the establishment of 3 Bde—'Cheers Easy'!

Other jobs undertaken by Syscon include: TAOR-wide telephone faults; Brinton faults; Vengeful faults; Cougar faults; Any other faults not mentioned above; Out of bounds signals; Control of Bde Rover Gp; Control of Duty and Standby Duty Drivers; Vehicles booking out; Operation of numerous radios; Issue PR's; General information post; Sunbed bookings; Dog minding service and many more.

Whilst battling your way through these daily tasks it is a well known practice for **FofS Noddy Baugh** to pop his head around the door and ask the most outlandish question, about the most unlikely situation, that will probably never arise this side of the Ozone Layer. And just as you've some how managed to get the answer correctish he backs it up with an 'ah! but what if?'.

With another tedious day coming to an end **Cpl George Farrar** commutes back to Lisburn and **LCpl Windy Millar** (the man who thinks BFT is the abbreviation for breakfast) discovers he's put on yet another stone. The only thing left to do is have a brew.

PS: A hearty welcome to all new Syscon members, only 24 months to push!

HELLO BLEEPS!

This happy (according to the RSM) LAD consists of four REME miracle workers.

Sgt Jimmy Parkes, Cpl (soon to be Sgt) Bennett, Cfn Paul (Where's my Lance Jack) Wilson and last but not least **Cfn Paul (The RSMs my mate) Blondel.**

When the LAD personnel are not doing BFT's CFT training, Weapon cleaning, Ranges, MT details, Duty Driver, TOETS, Recovering Boss Hogg (MTWO), erecting Multi-Gyms, making signs and Barbecue stands they have been known to work and sometimes complete work on the Squadrons 80 vehicles. This of course doesn't allow for the 2IC bringing his car in for various problems, although he usually leaves it until the LAD are in the middle of the PRE Inspection.

The LAD works on a great variety of vehicles ranging from 40 civilian cars and vans to the normal Landrovers, Bedfords and APVs. A great deal of knowledge and experience is required by the REME tradesmen to maintain them. If they do not have these qualities on arrival they most certainly have them on departure.

This overworked LAD still managed to find time to participate in sports activities. **Sgt Parkes** represents the Squadron in football and rugby, **Cpl Bennett** in golf and various sponsored activities and **Cfn Wilson** in rugby.

This sometimes leaves the workshop in the capable hands of **Cfn Blondel**, who, when he isn't explaining his night-time activities to the RSM, manages to keep the production wheels going—just.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

The past couple of months has seen a great many people coming and going; here are the details. **Capt K. Fisher** to 602 Sig Tp, **SSgt K. Cuthbert (REME)** to Sandhurst, **Cpl J. McNaught** to 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl C. Hoggard (RAOC)** to BATUS, **Cpls B. Smith** and **G. Tomlinson** to 30 Sig Regt, **Cpl C. Brown** to 8 Sig Regt, **LCpl M. Kelly (RPC)** to JHQ, **Sig A. Rickett** to 11 Ord Bn (EOD), **WPte T. Blackwell** to 16 Sig Regt and **Sig M. Howard** to 31 Sig Regt (V).

A sad and tearful farewell to our much beloved **Sig L. Morton** to civvy street. Good luck to you all.

Welcome to: **Capt N. Davies** as 2IC Sqn, **WO2 R. Taylor** as RQMS, **SSgt K. Bailey** to TM Tp, **SSgt W. Nimmonds (RCT)** as SQMS, **Sgts P. McCormick** and **P. Hilton** to TM Tp, **Sgt R. Porter** to QMs Dept, **LCpls Bowen, C. Budding** and **S. Mallaney** to Comms Tp, **Sig J. Gray** to SHQ, **Sig S. Gibbins** to Comms Tp, **Sig T. Roome** to QMs Dept and **Sig D. Jones** to Comms Tp.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

COMMS TROOP

Just recently the Squadron had a military skills competition in Ballykinler which saw Comms Tp coming second to TM Tp. The Comms Tp team, under the leadership of **Cpl 'Taff' Burdge** started to play bumper cars during the car drill phase of the competition and was heard to ask 'what Bollard?'.

Hello and welcome is extended to **LCpls 'Monty' Montgomery** and **Dave Tinkler**, welcome to the simplicities of Syscon.

Cheerio and thanks go to **LCpl Chris Adams** who left on posting to 233 Sig Sqn. Also goodbye to **Sig Chris 'Babyface' Nelson** who headed for the joys of 7 Sig Regt. Congratulations as well as goodbye to **Sig 'AB' Allan-Burns** who got married and is posted to 233 Sig Sqn.

A number of inter-departmental moves have occurred within our particular hub-of-the-universe which saw the comings and goings of the following: **Sgt Derek Styles, Cpl 'Taff' Burdge** (Supervisor/slavedriver in Commcen/Syscon) and **LCpl 'Max' Tait**.

PS: Congratulations to **Cpls 'Shakey' Shakespeare** and **Dave Keevash** on their selection for promotion to Sergeant.

TM TROOP

This has been a period of more work and no play with the usual maintenance of Cougarnet, hill top site checks, transceiver modifications and various visits to the Squadron by senior officers. Other areas of work have been numerous car fits, Brinton faults and intercom foul-ups.

Several areas however deserve special mentions. A team ably led (driven by) **Cpl Mick 'Sparrow' Crook** and consisting of **LCpls Vince McNaught, 'Stig' Richards** and **'Mac' McGowan** arrived for a routine weekend's work. Firstly, the Ops Room needed to be fitted out with Cougar, a job close to many hearts within the Squadron. No problems so far. Then the antennae were moved onto the mast (shock, horror). No problems. The 353Z wasn't working. Some problems. Now the intercom needed to be working yesterday. More problems. Finally three weeks later everyone was happy including the company commander! Well, impressed?

The Phillips intercom has been an ongoing task since July and is still nowhere near completion. **Sgt 'BJ' Finister** had his brain taxed to the limit on this one and with the help of **Cpls Les Dawson** and **'BFT' Simcock** managed to get absolutely nowhere.

However, less of the sarcasm and on to a job successfully done, the transitional move of Brigade Headquarters to the old Syscon—well done all members of TM Tp.

The troop has also been involved in several extra-curricular activities such as the Squadron Military Skills competition in which we managed to walk away with the trophy. **Lt Beard** was impressed and has promised the individuals concerned a small memento each. The team was captained by **Cpl Gordon Donald** and consisted of **Cpls Simcock, Murphy, Jones** and **Sig May**. The competition will have its own coverage so we'll only tell you we were brilliant.

TM Tp has also enjoyed another party, its summer ball which by all accounts was a good night. Somebody tell the OC Tp what happened. A big thank you must go to **Vince McNaught** for the organisation. It must have been good for you to have gained an extra tape as a result.

There is now a new Foreman installed in the hot seat but so far it hasn't even been allowed to get luke warm. Welcome to **FofS Russ Moren** and family who are hoping to see something of him in the near future. That means **FofS Tony McMahon** has departed for sunny BAOR and it is the least we can do to wish him the best of luck. Thank you.

Another departure has been **Cpl 'Jock' Dear** to 259 Sig Sqn.

And finally, congratulations to **LCpl 'Touche' Hadfield** and your 'new' family.

MT TROOP

The MT has a new boss in the shape of **WO2 Ron Philp** who has moved the great distance of 100m from 26 Sqn RCT. Congratulations **Mr Philp** on the move and on your promotion.

The troop has been busy supplying Comms Tp with its usual high grade drivers but has anyone realised that there are more drivers in Rover Gp than in the MT at the moment.

A special mention this month must however go to the MT with a sterling effort in coordinating and providing the transport for the unfortunate relatives of the Omagh bomb victims. The whole operation went smoothly due to the hard work of the MT Tp. Well done, we know it was all worth it.

225 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Jim Heck**
2IC	**Capt Ron Clay**
AO	**Capt Andrea Perks**
OC D	**WO1 Cliff Davey**
OC E	**WO2 Geordie Doughty**
OC F	**Capt Alex Gaw**
OC G	**Capt Paul Towers**
SSM	**WO2 'Taff' Cox**
RQMS	**WO2 Wynn Gordon**
CC	**Sgt Colin Ibberson**

The Squadron has been very busy since it formed on 16 March 1988, having finally broken away from 233 Sig Sqn. Much of July was occupied with moving everyone into the new custom built building, to the envy of the rest of Lisburn Garrison. The work load and pressure has settled down and life assumes a steady, if not routine, path.

SPORT

The long awaited confrontation against 233 Sig Sqn on the Rugby pitch finally took place. As an added incentive the match was also the preliminary round of the NI stage of the Army Cup. After a fiercely competitive, well fought match the final score was a victory for 225 Signal Squadron by 17 points to 4.

The football team has got off to a steady, if not spectacular, start to the season in the league. Unfortunately they were eliminated from the Cup Competition early on and this was despite the first 'hat-trick' of the season being scored by **Cpl 'Lofty' Byrne**. It's a shame though that all three were in his own goal!

DEPARTURES

Sadly we say goodbye to **Capt Dave Wills** and wish him a successful tour in MOD. Goodbye also to **Sgts Phil Thompson, Oscar Clarkson, Mark Hardy, Cpl Rose Raybould** and **Sig Mark Campbell**. Best wishes go with **LCpls Neil Williams, Russ Gunby** and **Paul Sellick** who have all left the Army for a 'quieter' life in Civvy Street.

ARRIVALS

We welcome **Capt Ron Clay** and family, **Capt Andrea Perks, WO1 Cliff Davey, Sgts Andy Hilton, Steve Thompson, Cpls Steve Draycott, Greaves, Andy Storey, LCpls John Neville-Green** and **'Chad' Chadwick**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **LCpl Ian Shrubb** and **Sharon** who have recently tied the knot and **Cpl** and **Mrs 'Cass' Cassidy** on the birth of a baby boy. Lastly well done and good luck to **LCpl Pat Coxen** who has left us to join the SM Course at RMAS.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

NEW CROSS FOR ST ALBANS CHURCH

A new cross for our College Church, St Albans, was designed and made by Icthos Designs of York. The Chaplain General, **The Rev Jim Harkness** conducted the service of dedication on 24 July which was also the graduation service. The graduating term was able to pick up a few words of wisdom and tips for the future from his sermon.

It was the last graduation service for our much loved and respected Padre, **The Rev David Wilkes**, who has been posted to Bagshot. **Padre David** worked hard for the benefit of our community and his many friends wish him and his wife **Diane** good luck and God speed for the future.

The New Cross
L to R: Mr M. Tarbent, Mr A Carberry of Icthos Designs, The Chaplain General and Padre David Wilkes

GRADUATION DAY

Traditionally our July Graduation Parade is the largest of the year and 29 July was no exception. Over 260 AT's and JL's graduated and with the supporting Troops behind it was an impressive sight; some 400 men on parade!

We were most pleased to welcome the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** as the reviewing officer. We were also pleased to see so many parents, friends and relations of the graduating soldiers. Nobody did a head count but there must have been well over 1500!

The weather was dry but because of a stiff breeze with the odd strong gust (the normal Harrogate climate!) the RSM ordered chin straps to be worn. A wise decision in the event. The AT RSM did very well to hold the parade together and special mention must be made of the band which in difficult windy conditions, didn't miss a beat.

A super parade, excellent in fact and proof that standards at the College remain high.

The day was also marked with another special occasion, that of a cheque presentation of £750 for Save the Children Fund. **Mrs Christine Alexander**, wife of the SOinC, kindly accepted the cheque from **AT RSM Jim Porter**. The money was raised during Big Fete day earlier in the term.

The SOinC inspects Rawson Sqn

Mrs Christine Alexander with the SOinC receiving the cheque for Save the Children Fund from AT RSM Jim Porter

FETE DAY—SPECTRAL VISION 88

On Saturday 9 July the College held its annual fete. It was much larger and grander than in previous years and its organiser, **Maj Mike Fisher**, stage managed events and stalls from bouncy castles, civil war displays, (Bradley versus Scott!) Blue helmets, Pink helmets; to the more usual cream teas, wellie wanging and white elephant stalls. A most successful afternoon and over £4,300 was raised for charities which included, Save the Children Fund, BLESMA, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, the British Olympic Appeal and local charities.

Representatives from the local charities were invited to the College on Monday 25 July to receive their cheques. The Mayor of Harrogate, **Cllr J. W. Marshall** also attended to support the occasion.

Cheques being presented to the Charity representatives. The Mayor of Harrogate standing on the right

ROYAL TOURNAMENT LIGHTNING TROOP
By Lt Gordon Anderson

The Junior Leaders of Lightning Troop, Bradley Squadron were 'chosen' (latin for Lemon), to be the Arena Party for the Royal Tournament. Job Spec: Move all equipment on and off for each event!

Accommodation inside the Exhibition Centre was spartan to say the least but with a 16 hour working day, we were not going to see much of it!

First job; remove all stones from 700 cubic metres of earth so that the horses of the Kings Troop RHA and the Household Cavalry could perform without hurting their toes. Thank goodness we did not have to sift through it afterwards!

Rehearsals revealed the requirements for the performances; we had to erect and dismantle PT display equipment, obstacles for the RN gun race and help the motor cycle display teams, to name but a few. There were slightly more bizarre tasks such as crewing the land rover borne galleons in the Spanish Armada with two men in the back 'rocking and rolling' in wave simulation.

We also had to provide a fire guard and they performed in anger on at least four small fires started by pyrotechnics.

Two performances a day for three weeks took its toll, the days long and tiring. However, it had its rewards and it was a great experience for the young men of Lightning Troop and their knowledge and awareness of the Army and other Services has been broadened. One special highlight was that some juniors were able to meet members of the Royal Family, including **HM The Queen**.

A job well done and praise received and compliments given. So much so that Lightning Tp has been invited to be the Arena Part again next year.

Lightning Troop
Be a Junior Leader and go up in the world

THE GREAT RAWSON RUN

The Great Rawson Run or 'how to get money for the Wishing Well Appeal' was held in May and was a run from Blackpool to Scarborough via Harrogate.

Running for Children's Lives
Left to Right: AT Mark Taylor, AT LCpl Martin Arundel, AT Karl McDonald and AT David Clark with the cheque for £4,000 ready to hand over to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children

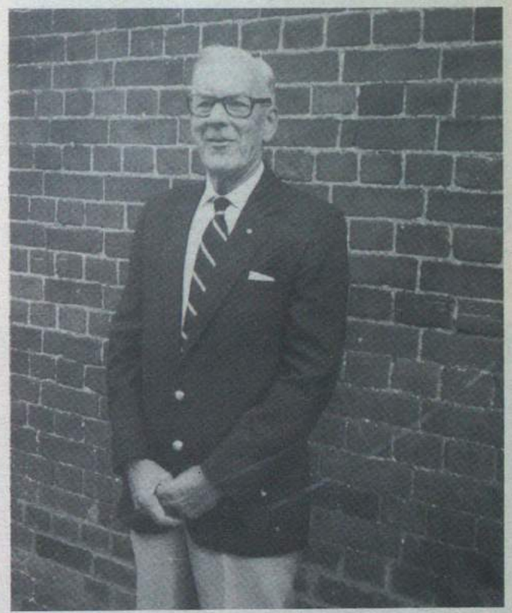
Two teams of 20 apprentices ran in relay with mobile support. They started in Blackpool on the evening of 20 May after being given letters of greetings from the Mayor of Blackpool to the Mayors of Harrogate and Scarborough. The lads ran faster than was anticipated and were cheered into Scarborough by the other members of Rawson Squadron who had been transported there for the occasion. The letter of greetings was handed over at 2000 hrs on Saturday 21 May.

The majority of the sponsorship was raised by the AT's of Rawson Squadron and £4,000 was handed over to **Mr Nix Farquarson**, North Yorkshire Chairman of the Wishing Well Appeal, and the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, **Sir Marcus Worsley** on 25 July.

Well done Rawson, and they plan to do a similar run next year. We hope they do!

OLD BOY VISITS COLLEGE SIXTY YEARS AFTER GRADUATING

Maj (Retd) Cyril Catt visited the College in July 1988, 60 years after graduating as a Technician. Looking very dapper in Royal Signals mufti **Cyril Catt** now 78 has a wealth of interesting stories. His Signals career spanned 20 years from Apprentice to Foreman of Signals to Captain in the Second World War. His postings will be the envy of apprentices graduating now. He has travelled the world—India to Eire, Tanzania, Kenya, Abyssinia and Germany in 1944. He now lives in Miami, Florida.



Maj (Retd) Cyril Catt looking as fit as the day he joined Royal Signals!

CANOEING—MUCH SUCCESS

Canoeing continues to be a major sport at the College with involvement in both recreational and competition scenes both civilian and service.

The College team was defending the Army Junior Slalom championships this year which were held in Llandyssul, Wales.

In the individual event, after a particularly high standard, the first place went to Chepstow but our **JL Brian Boniface** was a close second. **AT Cpl Lee Broders** came fourth and **AT Graham Lewis-Walker**, sixth. This high standard of paddling continued into the team event and the retention of the title for another year.

SSgt (FofS) Kevin Truby, was pipped into second place by one, yes one, second in the senior event. Our junior team equalled the winning time of the UKLF senior team event. It bodes well for the future!

At the Army Championships in Hildesheim in June a change in the rules allowed the juniors to compete. And guess what? Yes, the College team won beating the long standing Army champions, 19 Fd Regt RA.

The three team members selected to represent the Army in the Inter

Services Slalom Championships held at Bala in September, don't forget that two of the team members are juniors, **Boniface** and **Broders**. The RAF narrowly won by two points, the closest competition for some ten years. Both **Sig Boniface** (now at 8 Sig Regt) and **AT Cpl Broders** have been selected to compete at as part of the Combined Services Youth team in the British Inter Regional Championships in October. The paddlers also look forward to the Army Surf Canoeing Championships in North Devon, also in October.

It will make a change to get salt water in their ears!

AA Coll Harrogate, Slalom Team
L to R: JL Brian Boniface, SSgt (FofS) Kevin Truby, AT Cpl (now Sig) Lee Broders

YOUNG AT HEART

After 20 years of youth work **Mr Keith Thomas,** who is a civilian instructor at the College, has finally retired from being a Youth Leader-in-Charge with the North Yorkshire Youth Service.

His first appointment was while serving as an Instructional Officer with 14 Sig Regt when it was located in Gloucester.

On moving to the Army Apprentices College, **Keith** formed the Penny Pot Youth Club with members being drawn from the young people in the married quarters, Apprentices, Junior Leaders and young people residing in the locality.

A surprise party was organised for him with his wife **Jean** being in on the secret with food and drink being secreted away. However, he obviously knew something was in the wind when so many friends and past members of the Youth club arrived along with the Harrogate Area Youth Officer and the Commandant, **Colonel Garton**.

A presentation was made and **Keith** was overjoyed to see so many old friends. Our sincere thanks **Keith** for your unselfish dedication, hard work and friendship over the years.

Penny Pot Youth Club
Mr Keith Thomas Centre Stage

If you are leaving the services and are looking for a challenging job using your Radio and electronic expertise, then read on.

The CAN Group are looking for a

Technical Support Engineer

The nature of our business is Mobile Communications and Others.
You will be based in our Group Head Office and will be responsible for a range of technical support activities within the Group.
Priority areas will be support for our Mobile Radio Co where knowledge of Band 3 and Cellular Radio will be required.
Site surveys and installations supervision will be part of the job function as will product support and advice. Full product training will be given.
The Company is aiming for BS 5750 Quality Accreditation and assistance in achieving this will play an important part.
Other Companies within the Group range from Telecommunications to Electronic Display's, so a good electrical engineering background is required.
You must have initiative and be prepared to travel and stay overnight as required.

QUALIFICATIONS	Accepted Electrical Engineering Qualifications Radio Frequency and Equipment Experience Aerial and Antennas Knowledge Knowledge of Quality Procedures an advantage
LOCATION	Basingstoke, Hants
SALARY	£15,000 + Bonus – Six Month Review
FRINGE BENEFITS	Company Car, Pension, Private Health The Company operates a non-smoking policy
AGE LIMIT	40
CONTACT	E. C. Moore The CAN Group Marlborough House, London Road Hartley Wintney, Hants RG27 8NY
METHOD/TYPE OF APPLICATION	Written with CV. Will be followed by interviews

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

GOODBYE TO ESME

Those of you who were taught radio at Blandford between 1974 and 1988 will remember **Esme**. There were many OC's Radio Gp, but we all knew on whom the Group depended for its success. It was **Esme**. She was blessed with the ability to excel at her job while remaining always cheerful. By this means she brought happiness to students and staff alike. As a mark of our appreciation the OC's of Radio Gp and two recently departed instructors (the ones with the biggest coffee mugs!) presented **Esme** with a garden bench from which she can enjoy her magnificent garden.

HQ BAOR
BFPO 140

It is seldom that Communication Branch BAOR grace the pages of *The Wire* but a flurry of activity around the Corps week in June has prompted this submission. In fact it has taken longer to prepare than most submissions because it was typed on the new HQ BAOR Office Automation System by SO1 Comms (Ops/Org/Trg/EW) when he had a spare week!

It started when the Joint Signal Board (Germany) became exceptionally streamlined and was held amongst the Tornados of RAF Bruggen. **Group Captain Keith McPhee**, the RAF member, arranged the venue by kind permission of the Station Commander, **Group Captain Rocky Goodall**. Prior to the meeting the Board toured the operational aspects of the Station, including the 21 Sig Regt elements. **Col Roger Thompson** found the Tornado cockpit less than ample and **Squadron Leader Alistair Barnes** (JSB Secretary) thought he was privileged when he sat in the back seat of the RAF coach that was bearing two-star plates.

The social activity of the year (so far) was our visit to the battlefield of Waterloo on 23 June. **Maj Gen Peter Davies** decided that our knowledge of history needed brushing up a little so the event commenced with the famous film being shown in the mess the previous night. The sun shone the next day (just about the only day in June when it did) and under the eagle eye of **Lt Col John Haydon** we set off (on time) on what we thought would be a long and boring 2½ hour journey. None of it for, an hour down the road, we were met by **Capt Wally 'René' Lockwood** our French fifth columnist who led us into the woods where we were plied with refreshments by Napoleon's 21st Transmission Battalion (or QM dept 21 Sig Regt). After a few bucks fizz none of us wanted to move but eventually we

The JSB(G) visit the Tornados of RAF Brüggen
L to R: Wg Cdr John Waters, Lt Col John Munnery, Lt Col Cliff Walters, Col Roger Thompson, Maj Gen Peter Davies, Gp Capt Keith McPhee, Mr David Moysey, Sqn Ldr Alistair Barnes and Lt Col Chris Spencer

Maj Gen and Mrs Davies with the 21st Transmission Battalion (Whitemore's own) delegation

MISS BEING PART OF A TEAM?

SSAFA/FHS could help you as much as you help us.

If you served in the Forces for any length of time, you probably enjoyed being part of a team. If you've retired now, and miss that feeling, there's one simple way to get it back – become a SSAFA/FHS volunteer.

Service and ex-Service men and women, and their families can, and do, have all sorts of problems they need help with. Often ex-service personnel understand those problems better, but SSAFA/FHS volunteers come from all walks of life and it's certainly not essential to have a Forces' background.

We particularly need help in the inner cities so, if you'd like to be part of a worthwhile team and help people at the same time, write to John Gibson now.

SSAFA/FHS

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION/FORCES HELP SOCIETY

16–18 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Telephone: 01-222 9221.

were on our way again. By now the officers in E2 appointments were probably regretting being with us. **Col John Bromley** was being harangued about LOA and **Col Mike Taylor** about the Ptarmigan mortgage.

The tour of the battlefield was excellent. The Branch SO2's **Majs John Macfarlane, Colin Whittaker** and **Mike Wallis** found a suitable site for a SCRA Central at Hougoumont Farm. The SO1's, **Lt Cols Cliff Walters** and **Chris Spencer,** went one better and nominated Lion Hill as a rebro site (more experience you see)!

Then, the boring return journey—but, no, **'René' Lockwood** just happened to have his mobile banquet kit on board—very handy when the CO's around! The result was a pretty painless journey; in fact almost an anaesthetised one really.

This extravaganza was followed by the annual cricket match of the Rheindahlen Titans—Soldiers v Officers. Unfortunately, the Sunday weather was more in line with the remainder of the month—wet. Nevertheless, we all went to church which seemed to work because the drizzle stopped in time for **WO1 Fred Mackender**'s barbecue. We ate, drank (a bit) and, in time for the cricket, were merry. It appeared that the officers had not 'rigged' the rules correctly as **WO1 Taff Williams** and **Cpl Mat Duff** both had reached their maximum scores of 20 before the Officers had got off their shooting sticks. But, as the labours of the morning wore off **Maj Willie Brewin** and his team gradually asserted their authority to keep the score down to 86. Something was going wrong. Even the umpire. **SSgt John Richardson,** wasn't cheating and the officers looked favourites. Well, to cut a long story short, 86 wasn't enough for such swingers of the willow as **Walters, Brewin, Wallis, Macfarlane, Gurr** and **Whittaker. WO2 Mick Bell,** hard as he tried, could not conjure up any magic with his bowlers and the Commander's Bat went to the Officers to avenge the tie of 1987 when the rules were obviously wrong!

Lt Col Cliff Walters presents the Commanders Bat to Maj Willie Brewin

To show that it is not all play and no work we would also like to register that in August we had the privilege of a visit by **Brig Gen W. Estorf** who is the German Army equivalent of the SOinC. He called on the CinC and then spent a full morning with **Maj Gen Peter Davies** on briefings followed by an excellent static display of Ptarmigan organised by **Capt Graham McNeil** of 21 Sig Regt.

Brg Gen Estorf visits the static display accompanied by Maj Chris Donaghy and Sgt Smeaton

EXERCISE REFORGER

Maj Gen Peter Davis visited Ex Reforger in September. He was met and escorted throughout his visit by **Brig Gen Sam Leffler,** Senior Communications Commander USAREUR. After an initial briefing by **B. G. Leffler** (upper photo), **Gen Davies** visited Control Headquarters and Signals Command where he met the two members of the Corps whom he had assigned to work jointly with the exercise frequency managers for the key part of the manoeuvres to maintain our expertise in this area until the Reforger series of exercises once again involved NORTHAG and 1 (BR) Corps. Following that **Gen Davies** was taken to lunch where he made a careful selection (lower photo) from the heat in a bag menus.

Ministry of Defence Whitehall

SIGS 36

It has been well over a year since we appeared in *The Wire* and naturally nearly half the branch personalities have changed. The arrival of our new computer seemed a good occasion to remind everyone of our role and how we can provide assistance. To the uninitiated we can be regarded as the Staff Quartermasters, not only to the Corps but, to the three Services in regard to communication equipment.

We have a unique role as 'controllers' of certain communication equipment which entails forming the secretariat of and chairing, the Army Communication Equipment Committee (ACEC) which scales equipment; to the issue and control of all unit holdings. It should be noted that Cryptographic equipment is included in this process, controlled by Signals 36a. Thus if your Sponsor cannot provide the particular answer in regard to equipment, be it scaling or holdings, we hope we can oblige.

Our new computer is nearly at the final acceptance stage, it has taken some five years to have the justification accepted and obtain funding. **Lt Col Roy Edge** must take the credit for the tenacious way he has fought the case to the current successful conclusion. In addition to the new system which is more powerful and flexible we have been established with an Executive Officer (ADP). **Peter Board** is filling this post and will be leading us through the maze of possibilities the computer provides. He is ably assisted by **LCpl Neil Turton** who joined us in July.

We were sorry to lose our leader, **Col Martin Pickard** who took early retirement in August and now works for DARC at HQ Duke of York's in Chelsea. The Branch marked his retirement with a lunch when suitable presentations were made including a garden fork as **Martin** is a very keen gardener. The photograph shows a plastic man called 'Bill' being presented to assist 'Ben' combat 'weeds' in his garden. Those old enough may remember the Flower Pot Men. **Col Pickard** was most appreciative of the 'Jimmy' presented to him by all officers of the Directorate.

Old Soldier recounts whilst the historian speculates, Col M. Pickard and Maj P Richards

'And there I was, surrounded by 'em'!'
(In fact Joke 1696 in the Pickard collection)

Lt Col Mike Martin has assumed the mantle of Col Sigs 36 until the arrival of **Col Mike Jennings** around Christmas time. He still finds life at the MOD strange and keeps sane by running round the parks and boardsailing (not on the Serpentine). This has left the SO1 slot empty. However, **Maj Derek Copeland** previously SO2 (Ptarmigan) has agreed to extend and become the SO1. He still finds time for his various building projects and his forays around London.

The retirement lunch was also a farewell to **Lt Col Dick Thwaites** on posting to Cyprus, and **Maj Peter Richards** now the 2IC at 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Maj Roy Westerman** takes on the crypto in Sigs 36a and **Maj Mike Lithgow** is well established as the secretary to the ACEC, so much so he regularly 'rides out' at RMA Sandhurst for his sports afternoons.

The continuity in Sigs 36a is provided by **Lt Col John Beasley** until he leaves us in December. He has however kept clear of the computer leaving its nuances and teething troubles to **Capt John Lovell** who leaves us for the School of Signals in October.

The real world of equipment is controlled by Sigs 36, b2 and b3, it is here that 'the buck stops' as unavailability can cause genuine problems. **Maj Malcolm Emslie** and **Maj Bob Scriven** run Sigs 36b2 and are currently the only office not to have changed during the year. **Malcolm** successfully took part in the Lanyard Trophy with **Peter Richards** last April, a very creditable feat. **Bob Scriven**'s interests lie in wine making and keeping fit an excellent combination which helps him tackle his detailed and demanding staff tables. Sigs 36b3 has had two changes and is now led by **Maj David Lawson** who has been taking on the supply world to solve 'Dues out' problems. He is still smiling so the subject obviously remains under control. Continuity and experience are provided by **Maj Ken McRae** our particular expert on commercial radio. **Ken** has been in London so long now that everyone calls him with their problems. He will be sadly missed on posting to Bicester in November.

To all those who have successfully submitted an ACEC case but are still awaiting their Harness and Ancillaries Sub Committee (HASC) outcome **Sgt D. Rozario** should be familiar to you. He has been with the branch for two years and provides great continuity and assistance to units.

Our clerks **Kay Masters, Ann Parker, Beverly Edwards** and **Christopher Enracht-Moony** complete the numbers that serve as your 'staff quartermasters'. We hope this has been an interesting update for you and perhaps provided some useful information.

Lt Col Dick Thwaites delighted that he has something to hang in the loo

'Bill' handed over

Berlin Sig Regt
BFPO 45

JULY-SEPTEMBER

All of you know that Berlin is a sleepy hollow—a sunshine posting of the old type. We don't have much to do normally, especially once the Queen's Birthday Parade is past, so reports for the summer months should include 'Happy Holiday' snaps, with us all sunbathing, swimming and generally having a good time, trying to find things to do.

Wrong! Life in Berlin is still going at about Mach 2.5 (for those who have not completed B1 courses, that is very fast). Our reports cover a visit to the Regiment by **ex-Lt John Badcock** and some of his chums (the Master of Signals and his comrades from the 79 Armd Div Sigs Association!); a visit by the SOinC; the 'Hail and Farewell' Roll for 1 Sqn; Ex Rondo; and last but by no means least, a report on our latest sporting successes in the boardsailing world.

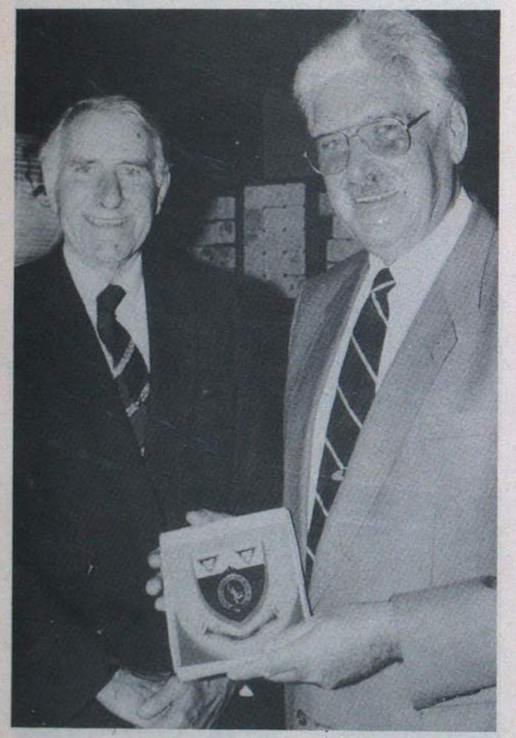
VISIT OF 79 ARMD DIV SIGS ASSOCIATION

The Master of Signals and seven other ex-officers of 79 Armd Div Sigs Association visited Berlin from 2-5 September for their annual reunion. After a busy day sightseeing in West Berlin they spent Saturday evening at a barbecue in the HQ Officers' Mess. They gave a most lively presentation of their experiences following D-Day.

On Sunday 4 September they visited the Glienicker Brucke (of spy film fame) then spent some happy hours 'Fruhschoppen' with the Mayor of Wilmersdorf. All were thrilled to meet the original composer of 'Lilie Marlene' at 'Die Spitze', a popular artistic pub on the Charlottenburg side of the Wilmersdorf frontier. The Mayor then took everyone for a suckling-pig lunch at the Marienborn Trapprenn Bahn to enjoy the spectactular trotting races.

On Sunday evening the Annual General Meeting of the Association was held with its usual deep solemnity. What took place at the meeting is, of course, subject to the 'need to know' principle.

On Monday 5 September the Master and his friends visited East Berlin and had lunch there. In the afternoon they visited Berlin HQ and Signal Regiment and had tea in the Sergeants' Mess where they received Regimental ties and were initiated as life members of the Regiment. The General and his young chaps then departed by plane leaving behind sore heads and considerable respect for the undoubted stamina of retired officers of our Corps.



Maj Gen John Badcock presents the Mayor of Wilmersdorf Herr Horst Dohm with the 79 Armd Div Sigs Coat of Arms

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF VISITS BERLIN

Between 14 and 16 September, the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** visited Royal Signals Units stationed in Berlin.

The SOinC arrived on Wednesday afternoon, entertained local military and civilian communication personalities at a supper party that evening, then commenced his military phase the following morning with a visit to Berlin HQ and Sig Regt.

After a briefing by **Maj C. C. McColville**, OC 1 Sqn, on the Squadron's role in Berlin, the General paid a call on the GOC.

Following this **Maj Gen Alexander** formally opened the Berlin Automated Message Handling Switch.

What then followed was a classic case of 'on the buses, off the buses' as the SOinC visited 1 Sqn Tech Workshops in Stadium Barracks, Bde Main HQ and the Bde Log CP set up in the field in Ruhleben Fighting City, then back to the Headquarters Sergeants' Mess for lunch with Royal Signals WO's and SNCO's.

The afternoon was taken up with a visit to 4 Tels Gp office where the General was briefed on SATCOM developments in Berlin by **Mr Bill Gorst** and his team.

The evening saw a ladies dinner night in the Officers' Mess where the guests included Senior Signal Officers from the US and French Sectors, the Mayor of Wilmersdorf, **Herr Dohm** and his wife, and senior officials from Landespost Berlin.

The SOinC spent an hour on Friday with Allied Staff Berlin where he met and was briefed by **Maj J. M. Ross** SO Comms ASB.

One more quick change and the SOinC left Berlin at 1700 hrs.

SOinC formally opens the Berlin Automated Message Handling Switch

SOinC chats with Sgt Murphy, SSgt (FofS) Kassim looks on

1 SQUADRON

The last few months in Berlin have been neither more nor less hectic than normal; we still seem to manage by fair means or foul to get quarts into pint pots and square pegs into round holes.

To start with here are the comings and goings of the last two months. Hello and welcome to: **Sgts Chris Arnold, Wilf Watkins, Cpl Ray Jepson (REME), WCpl Debbie Burwell, Cpl Dave Hindley, WLCpl Liz Bunce, Sig Eddie Aggar, LCpl 'Tiny' Baker (REME), Sig Joe Sherwood, John Walsh, Dave Wilson** and **Jamie Gardner**.

Goodbye and good luck to: **SSgt Kev Bailey, Sgt Martin Hoy, Cpls Mick Evans, Mick Reed, WCpl Chris Edwards, Cpls Dave Slater, Barry McLaughlin, WCpl Paula Carson (Now Mrs Anderson), Cpls Chaz Tolton, Andy Luxford, Sig 'Sig' Bolton, Harry Ferguson, Dave King, WPtes Karen Miller, Annette Norman** and **Sig 'Smudge' Smith (Now LCpl)**. and their wives, husbands and families.

Hello and goodbye to **Pte Sharon Wilson** (UDR) who spent a couple of weeks sightseeing and partying (annual camp) with the Squadron.

In addition to the events reported on, the Squadron has been renewing friendships with the local Borough of Wilmersdorf (Anglo German Weekend) competing in the annual Brigade Raft Race on the Havel, the Brigade athletic championships and finally and by no means least setting up and supporting the Berlin Military Tattoo, with tasks as varied as spotlight operation, sound engineering, communications installation and operation, ticket sales assistance, Bill posting (over 3,000 posters) humping, dumping and ushering. The Tattoo will, we hope, be covered pictorally later. All those who saw it agreed that Berlin Tattoo 88 was the biggest and best ever!

EXERCISE RONDO XXXV

Ex Rondo, for those who don't know, is a bi-annual, tri-partite exercise for communication personnel in Berlin. The three Allied forces take turns in hosting the exercise in their own Sectors. This year it was the turn of Berlin HQ and Sig Regt to host Rondo XXXV which took place between 30 August and 2 September. The exercise is a competition in which a British, American and French serviceman form a team and compete against another 19 teams.

The exercise took off with a vehicle move to 'Square 60' in the Grunewald. On arrival **Sig 'Blind as a Bat' Jukes** drove past a tree stump which suddenly grew 2in and ripped into the side of the vehicle. The rest of the day was taken up by the introduction to Allied radio and antenna equipment and also meeting our fellow team members. At the AFV training area, having identified various armoured vehicles provided by C Sqn 14/20KH, 1 Kings and both Allies, we were all taken on a cross country ride. At the end of the day we had good old exercise stew, provided smilingly by chefs from Berlin HQ and Sig Regt and 1 KOSB, then retiring to the bar we tried to explain the meaning of various 'Army' songs to our Allied friends.

On day two we were awakended by the sweet lilting voice of **SSgt 'I can speak French' Thomas** yelling 'Bonjour' in a scouse accent. We spent the day tabbing around the Grunewald, careering up and down the Havel in assault boats, (provided and manned by 1 BW) to various stands spread over the whole of Europe, or so it seemed. A large number of points were gained or lost at RAF Gatow ranges where each competitor fired his or her own personal weapon. 1 BW provided an introduction to SA 80 to all competitors at the ranges.

On day three came the vehicle phase and the chance to sit down and take part in a treasure hunt around West Berlin. Reports of US and French vehicles driving down Unter den Linden in East Berlin were disregarded, all vehicles were ferried back and forth across the Havel courtesy of 1 BW. In the evening came the traditional barbecue followed by refreshments in the bar.

Day four saw the climax of the exercise with a timed run around Ruhleben urban assault course resulting in a broken leg (a French serviceman, who finished the course). We were then ferried back to Stadium Barracks care of US airways in a 'Huey'. Trophies were presented by the Brigade Commander. Congratulations to **LCpl Rick Cummins** and his band of merry men who gained first place.

We then adjourned to the restaurant for the Rondo lunch. All in all a pretty hectic week, all under the able direction of 2IC, 1 Sqn, **Capt Malcolm Llewellyn**. (Well we have to blame someone!).

Sig Hutchinson and LCpl Johnson explain the workings of 'Le Telephone' on Ex Rondo

Cpl Raine and LCpl Moody show Gls mast erection drills on Ex Rondo

'The Winners' LCpl Cummins and collaborators. Urban Assault Course Ex Rondo

WINDSURFING

The Regimental team recently attended both the BFG and Corps Windsurfing Regattas which were held at the Dummersee Yacht Club.

Over 80 competitors took part in the BFG Regatta which fortunately had wind strengths in excess of force four; this made the start line sequence very interesting! The strength of the wind made sailing a challenge for many of the novices within the fleet and with the 'new' M type course even gave the more experienced a problem or two.

The BFG team consisted of **WO1 (RSM) Steve Bailes, Cpl Guy Broom** and **Sig 'Hutch' Hutchinson**, it was a credit to **Guy** and **Hutch** at their very first Regatta to do so well in taking the BFG Minor Units runners up prize.

The Corps Regatta was even more challenging with winds of up to force six and two types of course, triangle and M being sailed. The increase in wind strength caused us to change our team and bring in **LCpl Rick Cummins** to replace **Hutch**, but it happened they were neck and neck at most of the finishes. Once again we took second place, being pipped at the post by the same team.

The regiment now holds the following trophies:-

Intercorps Champions (part shares)
BFG Minor Units Runners Up
Royal Signals Units Runners Up
Rank Xerox Unit Team Trophy

The sport has shown signs of taking off within the Regiment with a pool of keen novices who will be up to competitive standard quite soon, they include: **Sig John Collins, Sig Rob Price** and **WPte Sam Jenkins**.

Taught properly the sport is quite easy to learn and very enjoyable—why not try it?

PROJECT CORVUS

We promised more news about our Tactical Trunk System, Project Corvus. We can now reveal that Trunk and access nodes will be mounted in Mercedes Gelande Wagons using Racal equipment for radio relay and switches. So you see, there are some advantages to being in Berlin!

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

HQ SQUADRON
QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

The Summer break was welcomed after the preceding months of exercises and battle camps—not to mention the routine of the Technical Quartermaster's department.

At the time of writing the department is deeply involved in a total check of the squadron holdings as well as preparing for the forthcoming winter exercises and the Annual Ordnance Ancillaries Inspections.

Sporting-wise, the QM, **Capt Mick Ledwards**, is leading in the department's trophies cabinet with successes in golf and cricket, but the young running stalwarts, **LCpls Edmund Gajny** and **Mark Vile** are beginning to catch up so the cabinet should soon be full to the brim.

Finally, a warm welcome to **Sgt 'Tiny' Williams**, his wife **Julie** and children and to **Sig Alex Dack**—we wish them a fruitful tour in the Regiment.

1 SQUADRON
ARRIVAL OF NEW SQUADRON COMMANDER

Our new OC, **Maj Paul Taylor**, assumed command of the Squadron on 26 September. On behalf of everyone, a warm welcome to him, his wife **Angeline** and their young son **Adam**.

E TROOP
EXERCISE MOUNTAIN VIKINGS

During the first two weeks of August, the OC **Lt Martin Ramshaw** took an expedition comprising three soldiers from the Troop to Norway to trek across a remote area called the Hardangervidda. Over 12 days, we trekked almost 200km, over some ruggedly beautiful country, experiencing both extremes of weather on the way.

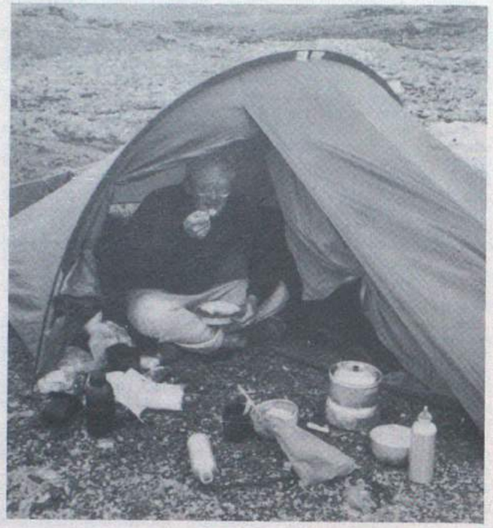
The Hardhanger is a wilderness of rock and water and the going was often hard work in the heat. **LCpl 'Specs' Gowland** showed his spirit of adventure training by falling into a torrential stream, only just managing to crawl out before reaching the North Sea. **Lt Ramshaw** showed his by sharing a tent with **'Schizo'** whose regular nightmares kept us all entertained.

We backpacked all our kit, living in tents. Food was supplemented by local delicacies from climbing huts, although you can eat only so many reindeer meatballs.

The trekking was most enjoyable when we crossed huge rock slabs formed by the glaciers. The Hardhanger is a plateau and so there was not much climbing once we had spent six days climbing on to the plateau.

We returned to the flatlands of Verden with suntans, enormous calf muscles and a pleasant sense of achievement.

The team in sunglasses at BMTC Norway. Sig Neil Clark, Sig Schizo Trow, LCpl Gas Gowland, the Boss



'Chez 'Gaz''

This trekking is too much like hard work; good job I've got four legs

Above Eidfjord

F TROOP

'But I thought a Trunk Node was 35 strong, Staff!'. The new Troop OC, **Capt Dave Somerville** was soon put right by that well known Ptarmigan expert **SSgt 'Taff' Taylor**. Perhaps the Boss was confused by the massed ranks of 12 men available to prepare the Troop for RSIT. As usual, the lads came through and made a success of the inspection, although hedging their bets with cries such as 'It was working yesterday when I tried it, Sir!'.

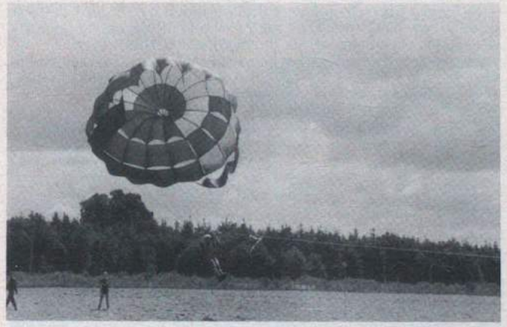
Meanwhile on Ex Noble Aries, **Sig 'Mac' McTavish** was attempting to dispose of the new Troop OC under the wheels of a Scimitar travelling at 50 mph. Witnesses to the incident were **Sgts Bill Bailey** and **Dave Gill** who overtook at 75 mph during a spot of training for the cross-country. Rumour has it that they even spent more time on the road than **Cpl 'Geordie' Headford** on his runs back to camp for 'essential supplies'. Seriously though, we do welcome **Capt Somerville** and his wife **Michelle** to Verden.

G TROOP
EXERCISE KESTREL WINGTIP

As we are now officially Golf Tp, it didn't seem strange that we finally tried to fly. On a two-day parascending trip, the Troop fledglings took to the air. In perfect weather conditions, we had varying degrees of success. Some of the best were **LCpls Jim Kelly** and **Sean Wilby** who reached 1,200ft and **Mrs Audrey Lawrie** who reached 300ft. Not so notable were **Cpl Steve Adams** with his soft landing in a farmyard substance, and **LCpl Dave Bewley** for his Tarzan impression in the trees. **SSgt Geoff Dawson** proved that he possesses all the aerodynamic qualities usually associated with Technical Staff Sergeants!

A barbecue in the evening was a farewell to **Lt Paul Pople** and a celebration of his promotion to Captain. (Rumour has it that he used the occasion to introduce himself to the Troop before departing.)

Warm welcomes to **Sgt Martin Sharpe, LCpl Neil Braisdell, Sig Paul Green** and congrats to **Sig 'Bri' Young** on his promotion. Finally, farewell to **'Mr' Stevie Clement**.



The Troop OC departs for Blandford

H TROOP

Lots of changes in H Troop recently. The Troop OC, **Lt Neil Makepeace** left for Shrivenham in the XR2, Filofax in hand. We hope he enjoyed his nice refreshing mud bath on Ex Summer Sales. **SSgt Davey** followed him to UK on posting to the School. The best one though was **Sgt 'Brummie' Cox's** cross-posting to Squadron Command Troop . . . while he was out of the way on his Staffy's course!

Welcome to **Sgt Gill** and his wife **Liz**. Warmest congratulations to **Cpls 'Nobby' Clark** and **Neil James** promoted to Sergeant, and **Sig Barnes** and **Haynes** promoted to Lance Corporal.

2 SQUADRON
ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

The Squadron would like to welcome the following new arrivals: **SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson** and his wife **Rosemary, Sgt 'Pathfinder' Martin** and his wife **Jane, SSgt Mike Tucker** and his wife **Bridget** and **Sig Paul Howarth**. We all hope you enjoy your time in sunny Verden. Unfortunately farewells must also be included, and sadly we say goodbye to the following: **SSgt (FofS) Dean Allen** his wife **Sue** and family, **Sgt Nigel Green** and his wife **Janine** and **LCpl Peter Earp**. The Squadron all wish you the very best for the future.

2 SQUADRON BORDER PATROL
Report by SSgt S. Lickes, Royal Australian Signals

The 2 Sqn border patrol departed from Verden on 6 August. After a thorough briefing at Soltau on the do's and dont's, we were raring

Border Patrol Vets: Sig Birdsall, LCpl Kirsop, Sig Greatbach, Gordon and O'Brien

to go and first established our patrol base in the lodge at Bergen/Dunnes. Patrolling commenced the following day at 0900 hrs under the control of the local BFS Officer. We travelled north stopping periodically to observe East German movement on the other side of the border.

The following day we patrolled south along the border and once again observed regularly the daily tasks performed by the East German Border Guards. The patrol was photographed on many occasions by the East Germans but nothing of any significance was observed by us.

The two day border patrol proved to be very interesting and this was enhanced by information given by the BFS Officer on the current border situation. It was an enjoyable time doing an important job.

SHQ TROOP

After a fairly hectic exercise season, the Troop enjoyed a week on Summer Camp. From 24-30 July we could forget panzers and enjoy canoeing and hillwalking in sunny Moosbach. A good time was had by all. Most of the Troop have either managed to escape or are just hatching escape plans for a spell of leave before RSIT. Fortunately summer hours are due to end on 4 September so we may get some sun, and the lie-ins will be a welcome return.

Our next exercise is in October and will be an ideal opportunity for the new guys to get an education in staff baiting.

Unfortunately the Squadron bar is shut for repairs at the moment and the lads are like nomads visiting less exotic ones around the Regiment.

PAPA TROOP
Report by Cpl Andy Roberts

With Summer Sales successfully behind it, the Troop was looking forward to a quiet few months in which to catch up on some leave. This was not to be however, and no sooner had we arrived back in Verden than RSIT reared its ugly head. This involved us in extreme flapping, lots of work and considerable bluff to turn the vehicles round before we departed on Battle Camp at, yes you've guessed it, Vogelsang.

Battle Camp was challenging but good fun and when we returned to Verden we actually managed to escape on leave. The rest of us got down to the 'nitty gritty' of Squadron life. PRE's, first and second line technical inspections and what we'd all been flapping about, RSIT.

The Troop says goodbye to **Capt 'Sailing Steve' Herstell** and his wife **Kath** who are moving on to HQ 4 Sig Gp. Farewells also to **LCpl 'Sheff' Sheffield** who is now a Mr, to **LCpls Bill Baily, Steve Wilson** and **'Jock' Urquhart**. At the same time we are to say 'Hello' to **Capt John Stuart, Sgt Graham Pardew, Cpl Dick Rutherford** and **Sig Le Boutillier, Baynham** and **Couser** who have arrived straight from the factory. Finally congratulations to **LCpl Storey** on his recent promotion.

ROVER TROOP
Report by Sgt Graham Pardew

With the recent heavy schedule of guards and PRE out of the way, those members of the Troop not on leave departed for Moosbach in Bavaria for a weeks adventure training. We departed on Sunday 31 August and were looking forward to a change of environment as well as some canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling and hill walking. The journey down to Bavaria was in glorious sunshine and thanks go to the Troop stint drivers **'Ernie' Appleton** and **'Boney' Bone** who displayed

hard shoulder driving techniques on the Autobahn. The first days training went as planned, even down to the weather being perfect. **LCpls 'Moggie' Morgan** and **'Bamba' Downs** were sporting the previous week's suntan we were desperate to copy. **'Geordie' Cullen** eventually got the hang of capsize drills and **Andy 'Spiderman' Cartwright** aspired to new heights in the rock climbing. As the week progressed we had to contend with more sunshine, lots of female tourists and the odd case of food poisoning. As with all good things it was eventually time to head back to Verden. For most of us that went quite smoothly. **LCpl 'Boney' Bone** was delayed for a day however when he rearranged his Ford Cortina into a Mini Metro sized package. The adventure training was physically demanding but the entire troop had a most enjoyable week.

We take this opportunity to welcome **Sgt Parker** to the Troop; he has arrived on promotion from the 3rd (Demolition) Sqn. Unfortunately we say farewell to **Sgt Paul Marshall** who goes to 3 Sqn on promotion and **Cpl 'Recce' Westhoff** who also goes to 3 Sqn. Farewells also to **LCpl 'Slew' Shaw, Sig 'Toff' Arnopp, 'Ned' Kelly** and **'H' Harris**. We wish you all the best for the future.

3 SQUADRON
TM TROOP

The troop has been relatively quiet since our last contribution, with only a passing visit of the RSIT Team to cause any excitement. The OC Sqn had to assure the Foreman it was safe to come down after they had left.

There have been a couple of departures in the troop with **Cpl 'Rick' Cave**, hoping it would be Gibraltar, departed for Blandford. Also leaving is **Cpl 'Mick' Howard** for Civvy Street, good luck to both. It has been said they deserve each other.

There have been two new arrivals, **Cpl 'Tim' Hayter** from Belize and **LCpl 'Gaz' Booker** from just across the road in the Regimental TM Tp. We wish them the best of luck and hope they enjoy the forthcoming busy schedule.

LINE TROOP

The past two months have been filled with leave and the odd guard duty, but the troop still managed to get out one weekend in September to join the German reservists in a boat race (just for once on a river!).

The weekend was arranged with the Germans through our own **Cpl 'Bungle' Joll**. The venue, for this recipe of 'Lineman + Water = Disaster', was the river Aller. Early on a Saturday morning nine linies eagerly travelled down to the start. It was obvious that it was going to be a wet weekend, in more ways than one. By midday everyone had their sea legs and were finding it hard to stand up, this was before getting into the boat.

When we finally managed to get into the boats, paddling became the order of the day, for everyone that is, except **Sig 'Scouse' Bennett** who found it easier to be the rudderman and just steer everywhere!

With a good supply of refreshments on board, paddling became the secondary activity to the more enjoyable 'Walk the Plank', without a plank. **Sig Symmonds** was the first casualty.

At the end of the first day we had a well deserved 'pit stop'. We set up in an ideally placed camp site and had an excellent barbecue. The refreshments flowed faster than the river (into which we were all eventually thrown) and everybody had a thoroughly good time.

The second day we used our ingenuity and not our arms and hitched a lift with a motor boat. We soon passed our German hosts, but gave them a well needed tow as well. Of course 'walking the plank' came into effect again with **Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor** soon clinging on to the side of the boat asking for directions to dry clothing.

On our arrival at the Verden Yacht Club we were invited in for some wets after our epic tow/row. A good time was had by all and we would like to thank **Feldwebel Füchtricht** and **Oberfeldwebel Peterson** and all the other RK Verden who organised the event. We are all looking forward to a re-match.

The troop says farewell to **Cpl 'Bungle' Joll** on his retirement (Ha, Ha), **Cpl Geoffrey Chadwick** on promotion to Sergeant and posting to 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Andy Thomas** posted to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and **'Scouse' Bennett** who leaves to return to Notty-Ash in Liverpool. After all the departures we say hello to a new arrival, congratulations to a new Ptarmigan lineman, the newly born son of **Sig Paul** and **Regina Oliver**.

NOVEMBER TROOP

During a busy year, we thought August and September would be a 'quiet period'. However, with RSIT on the horizon it still proved to be hectic. The hard work and effort produced a good overall report for the troop. In particular a commendation by the CO for **Cpl Gleadow** and **Sig Elphick** on the excellent condition of their Radio Relay vehicle.

Congratulations to **Sgt Andy Bailey** on his promotion and farewell to him and **Amanda** on their posting to 7 Armd Bde. Farewell also to **Sig 'Gaz' Neeve** posted to 7 Sig Regt. Congratulations to **'Coops' Cooper** on his promotion to Lance Corporal.

There must be something in the air at Verden as **LCpl 'Archy'** and **Dawn Archer** celebrate the birth of their son **Paul Steven**, with **LCpl** and **Mrs 'Jonah' Jones** soon to join them.

OSCAR TROOP

It seems, for Oscar Tp, as if two months work has been compressed into two weeks. From the Troop OC to the lads I say thanks for all the hard graft. Oscar Tp's good name lives on.

We say hello to **Sgt Marshall** from 2 Sqn after exchanging troops with our own **Sgt Parker**. We also welcome into the troop an influx of new faces **Sig Simon Marshall, Will Staff, 'Car Battery' Karbhari, Richy Smith** and **Tom Vance**. Our most recent arrival is **Sig Mike Madely** cross-posted from November Tp. We have also had farewells to some of the old faces **LCpl 'Sharky' Dewar** on promotion and posting to NI, **Sig 'Tommo' Thompson** posted to 12 Armd Bde and **Sig Bell** to Civvy Street. Congratulations are due to **Cpl Cooper** and **LCpl 'JC' Crier** on their recent promotion.

In August Oscar Tp put on a demonstration for the local children to show how dangerous 436's can be to anyone playing on the road. (Especially when being driven by **SSgt Peter Griffin**.)

For those people not getting leave this summer there are two one week trips to the Harz Mountains. A little climbing in the mornings followed by arduous swimming pool exercise!

Crammed into the last two weeks have been RSIT, Border Patrol and Plug-Up for Ex Highland Malt III. The fleet is on the road and ready to go. Watch out 2 Sqn.

This is more fun than being run over by a car

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

THE SUMMER OF 1988

Summer has been and gone in Hohne. A blink and you could have missed it, but, as Winter draws in, we have happy memories of those days of sun, or was it day. Needless to say the workload of the Squadron did not diminish. Summer hours did not exist. The four reports below give an idea of why not.

THE SQUADRON FAMILY WEEKEND

The weekend of 27 and 28 August saw a flurry of activity as soldiers, their families and friends of the Squadron got together for a non-stop weekend of events.

Saturday began with a charity bed push by the Stags Rugby Union Football Club led by **Sgt Tiny Wells** and **LCpl Corky Corkett**. This rapidly turned into a sponsored run as the bed collapsed under the collective weight of the team.

At the same time there was also a Squadron Fete. This included the obligatory stocks, in which most of the seniors were caught, the world famous Irish Coffee stall and many other sideshows. Unfortunately the **Sig Paddy Steele**—find a brain cell competition had to be stopped after being adjudged impossible. The weather was good and thankfully it carried over to the next day when the Squadron Church Sunday was followed by a car rally and barbecue. Surprisingly it was won by two members of the MT department, **LCpl Webb** and **LCpl Montgomery**, so well done to them.

Many thanks to **SSgt (SQMS) Riley** for organising the fete which raised DM 700 for charity.

The Squadron Family Weekend—Sweet revenge for WO2 (SSM) Tomlinson having been released from the stocks

JNCO CADRE COURSE

Every year, the Squadron runs its own cadre course with the aim of determining which Signalmen and Privates in the Squadron show JNCO potential. The course was a tough six days of military training. It included physically strenuous outdoor training and mentally taxing classroom work. All this culminated in a 20km night patrol race.

The 24 soldiers who were on the course were split into three sections of 8 who under the watchful eye of their own DS, **Sgts Paul Cook, Steve Somers** and **Ian Berry**, quickly thinned to a hardcore of 18. We were very lucky in having three instructors from 1 RGJ who took the course fieldcraft lessons. This didn't seem to help **Sig Goodie Goodman** who, when leading a recce patrol, succeeded in being challenged four times by Dutch reservists on exercise in the same area.

The JNCO Cadre Course—Staff and students with the Inspecting Officer, Brig H. W. R. Pike

Everyone enjoyed the event which was the best marshalled and organised triathlon we had entered. Next year it will be organised by 1 RHA and we hope to enter a team. Perhaps more people will follow **LCpl Jason Barsley**'s example and 'Have a go', (perhaps next time he will give rugby the day before a miss!).

Saturday was the final parade and inspection by the Comd 22 Armd Bde, **Brig H. W. R. Pike DSO MBE**.

Congratulations to **Pte Cooke** who won best student and **Sig Medlyn**, recently arrived from 604 Sig Tp, who was deemed the most improved student.

EXERCISE RAMPANT STAG
Report by SSgt Simpson

I returned from leave in July to be informed I had been specially selected to be the commander of a platoon of enemy which the Squadron was to provide for Ex Rampant Stag. This was a Testex for the QOH Battle Group prior to Batus.

As time passed various letters and documents were sent my way so that planning and preparation could be carried out. The platoon I was to command would be 20 strong made up of Squadron personnel and some willing volunteers from the defence platoon of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

On the day of the exercise I left early to be briefed and carry out recces on the first phase of the exercise. **Sgt Gus Murray** took the remainder of the platoon away to receive the Soltau-Luneburg Training Area brief.

In the first phase of the exercise we were to be a platoon in defence. We held out for four attacks at different locations so the platoon were soon becoming experts at 'digging in' and playing dead. We were given the opportunity to reverse the roles and become the attackers on a reserve demolition dawn attack on Thursday morning.

On Thursday morning much to our amazement we got within 70m of our objective and within the defender's defence perimeter before our advance was halted by an enemy trench. A thunderflash was despatched. The only response was a verbal comment of 'Oh gosh (or words to that effect) a thunderflash'.

Having advertised our presence we quickly moved towards and on to (in **Sgt Murray**'s case, over) the bridge. Having achieved our aim in testing the defenders response to an attack, we then withdrew to our overnight location and our normal role of a platoon in defence.

Digging in at night proved to be most interesting when tanks are moving over the same area. **Pte Bob Hope RPC** had a close encounter with a Chieftain tank which chewed up his webbing (fortunately not being worn at the time) and then ate his sleeping bag, which he was about to occupy. So a tactical withdrawal to the nearby woods was ordered. We then re-occupied the position at first light to await the inevitable attack.

It was an interesting change from our normal role, having the opportunity to practise skills which we had not used for some time.

EXERCISE PALACE DIAMOND
Report by SSgt (FofS) Allen

During the period 18 July to 1 August, the Squadron staged Ex Palace Diamond. This involved five men sailing from Kiel to Copenhagen, changing crews, then sailing from Copenhagen to Kiel.

The skipper **LCpl Jerry Sharpe** taught both crews basic knots and

Ex Palace Diamond—'Are there no flat bits?' Sig Phil Humphreys, LCpl Jerry Sharpe, Cpl Toddy Todd, with Cpl (Fingers and Thumbs) Robinson impersonating a secret agent

nautical terms. 'Its the bow not the sharp end!'.

Eventually we put to sea, with a fair wind, a blue sky, a green sea and an even greener **LCpl Mick Brett**. However it was **LCpl Billy Webb** that was the first to feed the fish.

There were a few more green faces when we discovered that the Compo was all Menu A—Goulash! and even **FofS Jay Allen** could only eat it for three days.

The first crew enjoyed both the sailing and the runs ashore (not due to the goulash), with **Cpl Col Etherington** and **Cfn Tam Hamilton** trying out their command of the Danish language at every opportunity.

The cultural highlight was mooring at Helsingor, which the FofS pointed out (yawn) is where Shakespeare's Hamlet was set.

On 25 July the crews changed over and the boat was handed over to **Sgt Gus Murray** and his motley crew.

The first leg was 100 miles as the albatross flies but, when **Cpl (all fingers and thumbs) Robinson** is steering, then it increases to 130 miles, not to the amusement of the green face brigade.

The good ship *Pegasus* was challenged to a race by a Danish crew. The challenge was accepted and, with **Cpl Steve Ruxton** at the helm, beat the rival crew with an average speed of 8 knots. Once in port, and the sun over the yard arm, the victorious crew celebrated in the traditional way.

Each crew did a night sail, but a special mention must go to **Cpl 'Toddy' Todd** and **Sig Phil Humphreys** for doing most 360 degree turns in a watch.

Eventually the boat returned to Kiel and after thanking the skipper and handing over the boat, the crew returned to Hohne.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the sea. However, some of the green face gang will not be signing on for next year's expedition.

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207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

SHQ TROOP

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop welcomes **Sgt Andy Bailey** and **Mandy**, **Sgt Nigel Green** and **Janine** and **LCpl Pete Earp**, all from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Also welcome to **Sig Gaz Harris** from 8 Sig Regt and **Sig 'Barty' Bartlett** from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. We hope they enjoy their time in Soltau.

Farewell and adieu to **Sgt Dave Forbes** and **Linda** to 233 Sig Sqn on promotion, **Cpl Dave Simpson** and **Debbie** to 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT), also on promotion, and goodbye to **Cpls Les North** and **Angie** to 11 Sig Regt. All of them stalwarts of the Squadron—they will be missed.

Following the busy exercise period and the Freedom of Soltau parade, the Troop has now taken advantage of a lull in activities to get in some leave. All, that is, except **Capt Hugh Mullan** and **Cpl 'Dutch' Holland** who disappeared off to Sardinia on Ex Deci Clerk, for a spot of adventure training (well, that's what they call it).

B TROOP

Goodbye to **LCpl Steve Blanchard** and **Anja** to 259 Sqn in Cyprus. We're sure they'll positively hate all that sun, sea and sand.

Farewell to **LCpl Grant Mather**, snatched by 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Adieu to **LCpl 'Bev' Beveridge**, snatched by 12 Bde.

Oh dear. Since the last issue the troop has been without a Staff Sergeant. **SSgt Kev Lodge** spent August in Spain, ostensibly as a quality control officer for San Miguel! September has been spent working extremely hard in Warminster on a Range Management course.

In spite of Ex Deci Clerk, Ex Awe Diamond, Ex Medicine Man and leave, the Troop managed to mount an operational patrol of the Inner German Border. An eye-opener, yes, there really is a fence separating East and West. **Lt Dave Hudson** continued B Troop's education programme by doing all the cooking.

EXERCISE AWE DIAMOND

The last two weeks in August found the 7th Armd Bde Sig Sqn ensconced in Moosbach, near Sonthofen. The aim was adventure training. Canoeing, run by **Cpl Vic Hayes**, introduced novices to the joys of white water and Lebensgefahr weirs.

SSgt Graham Miles walked the hills—rumours that he was conducting a serious recce of all the ski-lifts are totally without foundation. **Capt Hugh Mullan** organised the bottle test. A 'simple' free abseil proved almost too much for **Sig Gordon** and **LCpl Steve Brannan. Sig Mulligan** developed a distinct dislike of descent by rope, he's much happier climbing. If the arduous training during the day wasn't enough, the disco in Sonthofen ensured that all returned tired but happy.

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

SQUADRON OFFICERS AND SNCOs DINING OUT

Early in July all the Squadron Officers and SNCOs sat down to a farewell lunch for seven stalwart members of the Squadron 'Head-Shed'. The theme for the day was the 'rats abandoning the sinking ship', the rats being: **Lt Richard Butlin, WO2 (Yos) Dave Wright, WO2 (SSM) Bob Brown, SSgts Wyn Neish, Phil Hawke REME, SSgt (FofS) Ian Hugill** and last but not least, **Sgt Bob Taylor RAPC.**

As the lunch gong was sounded, **Sgt** (nearly SSgt) **Kevin Jones** the PMC for the day, was handing out life jackets to all departing rats.

After an excellent lunch provided by **Sgt Kevin Chester ACC**, the Squadron Master Chef, **WO1 (GSM) Colin Whitehead** the President of the Brigade Mess entertained the assembled multitude with his 'Ode to the Bleeps'.

The day was rounded off with the OC Sqn, **Maj Hugh Colborn**, thanking the 'Rats' for all the hard work they have done in the Squadron and wishing them success in their future careers.

PAPA TROOP

Papa Tp is one of the two 'Communication' troops within the Squadron. As a troop we are responsible for eight 430 series vehicles, ranging from a 432 Rebroadcast Station to a 439 message centre. The troop also provides three hard top rovers for an assortment of tasks, one such task being the Garrison Commanders Communication Landrover.

During August and September the troop has been very busy with out of the ordinary jobs, such as, Northern Ireland Training with the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers and EW support to the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets during their four week training exercise at BATUS in Canada.

PAGE TROPHY 1988/89—RUGBY

The weather looked promising as we travelled up to Verden from Osnabruck at an ungodly hour on Friday 9 September. We had all trained hard and were eager to impress our coach, **Capt Andy Murdoch**, on our first outing this season.

Our opening game was against 2 Sqn which proved to be the **Cpl Graham Westall** show. The forwards won a good ball which was fed to **Cpl Graham Westall** by scrum half **Cpl Bruce Lee. Cpl Westall** then took charge, scoring most of the points in a 13—0 win.

That put us into the semi-final against 207 Sig Sqn. Once again our forwards played well and set us up with lots of possession. **Maj John Wallace** and **LCpl Chris Goodinson** scored the tries that put us into the final with a 10—4 victory. The final was against 1 Sqn, and yet again our forward domination gave us the advantage. **LCpl Bomber Brown** and **Maj John Wallace** were supreme in the line-outs. **LCpl Dean Hickling** gave us an early lead with a penalty, then with tries by **Sig Jason Werner** and **Maj John Wallace** we were 11—0 up and winners of the Page Trophy (Rugby) 1988/89. As the CO said in his closing speech we deserved to win because we were the only team that played like a team. Well done all!

THE BAOR TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

This event was held on the morning of Friday 2 September and was hosted by 4 Fd Regt RA. On Tuesday 30 August, **Lt Andy Hill** had walked into the FofS/YofS office and mentioned the BAOR Championships were to be held in Osnabruck and it was not too late to enter a team. **WO2 (YofS) Bob Pemberton** had a spare bike, and so the 212 Sig Sqn TRI Team was formed.

This gave us Wednesday to train and Thursday as a well earned rest day! The event started well with a Pasta Party on Thursday night, but in the cold light of Friday morning things looked a little different. The wind was increasing and there was the promise of showers (which never materialised). **LCpl Jason Barsley** now joined the team as a late entry, having decided to give it a go, without the benefit of our massive training programme.

The competition consisted of a 1,000m swim, 22.6 mile cycle section and a 9.7km road run. The time starts at the swim and finishes when the run is completed. The team set off, driven in the minibus by **Sig Andy Jameson** who ensured the change-overs went smoothly and all kit was collected leaving the four of us to concentrate on the event.

On arrival at the Dubbelau See, the venue for the open water swim an official daubed all four limbs with your race number giving your wife the impression you'd spent the last 24 hours at an all night disco. **SSgt (FofS) Dave O'Brien** had once been told the only difference between his swimming and treading water was he was wearing goggles when swimming, was surprised to find the other three members of the team as aquatically agile as himself. This was followed by the cycle section, an excellent course, well marshalled over mainly flat ground with a few hills towards the end. The hardest part of this section was borrowing a decent bike! The section finished at the Hohneburg Sports ground in Osnabruck. Bikes were placed in a rack and the running section began, not easy when each leg seems to contain four pints of blood. Again, a good course around the Piesburg with a nasty little rise after about 2km. However, on completion, competitors were rushed to the refreshment tent for a barbecue, as much tea as you could drink and the prize giving. Results were as follows:

Minor Units runners up—212 Sig Sqn.

Individual Positions	Time	Competitor
23	2.08.53	**SSgt (FofS) Dave O'Brien**
38	2.12.27	**WO2 (YofS) Bob Pemberton**
69	2.33.25	**Lt Andy Hill**
77	3.03.25	**LCpl Jason Barsley**

VOXTRUP ANNUAL RUBBER DINGHY RACES

The Bundeswehr Reserve annual rubber dinghy race took place at Voxtrup on the Mittelland Canal on Saturday 20 August. The Papa Tp team was led by **Sgt Kevin Jones**, a veteran of last year's race.

The idea of the competition is to complete the 600m course in the fastest possible time. A total of 13 teams had entered, some British, but the majority from the German military.

The first race began at 1000 hrs. The Papa Tp team was first away and we managed a good time of 7 mins 38 secs. At the end of the first session of races, the troop team was in second place and the first British team home.

The second round began and the troop team returned an excellent time of 7 mins 4 secs, pushing us into first place overall. Twelve teams still had to race and the team spent a nervous hour waiting for the clock to stop as numerous teams came very close to our leading time. Unfortunately three teams managed to beat it.

The day was rounded off with a barbecue in the woods. All team members were presented with a pewter plate to mark our achievement as the first British team and fourth overall.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

PERSONALITIES

RHQ	
CO	**Lt Col John Griffin**
2IC	**Maj Peter Richards**
Adjt	**Capt Jonathan Perks**
AAdjt	**2Lt Mhairi Nisbet WRAC**
TOT	**Capt Arthur Britteaden**
Ops Offr	**Lt Dave Whimpenny**
Trg Offr	**Capt Nick Metcalfe**
RSM	**WO1 Gerry Hegarty**
YofS	**WO1 Mick Drake**
Supt Clk	**WO1 Alastair Sykes**
ORS	**Sgt Danny Cullen**
HEADQUARTER SQUADRON	
OC	**Maj Ray Briant**
2IC	**Capt Sue Buncombe WRAC**
TCO	**Capt Stuart Gray**
Tfc Offr	**Capt Phil Castle**
Pmr	**Maj John Martin RAPC**
QM (Tech)	**Maj Bob Vale**
QM (Gen)	**Lt Col Phil Noble**
1 SQUADRON	
OC	**Maj David Hargreaves**
2IC	**Capt Ken Clarke**
OC A Tp	**2Lt Rick Rands**
OC B Tp	**Lt Mark Finch**
OC 15 Bde Sig Tp	**Capt Charlie Miller**
OC 49 Bde Sig Tp	**Capt Pete Stephenson**
SSM	**WO2 Sandy McLean**
2 SQUADRON	
OC	**Maj Mark Grieves**
2IC	**Capt Dave Hornsby**
OC O Tp	**Capt Tim Peacocke**
OC P Tp	**Lt Martin Barnes**
OC R Tp	**2Lt John Norris**
SSM	**WO2 Stevie Harrison**

FORWARD

Report by WO1 (RSM) G. L. Hegarty

Our last contribution covered a very busy period for the Regiment, this one is going to be no exception with many elements of our Regiment giving support in various parts of the UK.

One of the highlights of this period was our contribution to the British Army Demonstration for the NATO Military Committee. The Regiment provided communications and administration for 24 Airmobile Bde. (Rumour has it that a certain Warrant Officer was the highest paid car park attendant of the demo!).

No sooner had the Regiment returned to Imphal Barracks than half of it was off again to Op Cutter where they were to carry out prison guard duties. Fortunately they have been able to fit in quite a lot of military training, an example of which the Commanding Officer and I were lucky enough to experience when **Maj Mark Grieves** OC 2 Sqn, invited us to test the NATO Assault Course. I might add that **Maj Grieves** was the photographer throughout all this, ably assisted by his SSM!

The highest paid car park attendant (*Right*) assisted by Sgts Clair and Raeburn

Whilst half the Regiment was guarding society's naughty boys, the other half provided Enemy and Umpire communications support to Ex Northern Crusade. With SCRA Centrals and Rebroadcast Stations as far flung as Sheffield in the South of North East District and Otterburn in the North, resupply was not exactly a five minute job. With the limited assets in the Regiment the coverage over the District was little short of excellent, even though the enemy forces tried to stretch the SCRA 'elastic' to its limits. We think the enemy was defeated and good old Blighty restored to its normal, tranquil self.

2 SQUADRON

The past six months have seen 2 Sqn as busy as ever it has been. We have said goodbye to several characters. In particular **Capt Elaine Newnam** has gone to Blandford to join the Corps and we wish her all the best; **Capt Jim Richardson**, having led the regimental team to success in the Army Athletics Championships, has gone off on to JCSC and **SSgt Tony Davies** has recently undergone heart surgery but is now well on the way to a full recovery.

The exercise programme has been enlivened by two extraordinary events. First, provision of the site command and control communications for the British Army Airmobile Demonstration to the NATO Military Committee and secondly a spell as prison guards on Op Cutter. Both exercises were of great interest and required the personnel of the Squadron to use talents and skills not normally associated with work in the Commhead Sqn of a Divisional Regiment.

NMC DEMONSTRATION

The object of the demonstration was to display to the NMC the current UK capability for airmobile operations. The chosen site was the Bustard OP on Larkhill Ranges and the date was to be 14 September. Planning involved four distinct aspects of which the Squadron was involved in three. Three elements of the exercise were; an airmobile op involving units from 24 Airmobile Brigade (24 Airmob Bde), a fire-effect demonstration using TOW and MILAN anti-tank missiles and a static display of helicopters and heliborne weapon systems. The fourth and perhaps the most difficult element was the blending of the three operational elements into a seamless and incident free presentation for the most senior officers from all nations of NATO. 210 Sig Sqn had the responsibility for providing the communications for the 'blue' and 'orange' players of Phase 1, the airmobile op. 2 Sqn had the responsibility for providing the communications for the fire-effects and static displays, the radio and trunk communications available to the hosts and guests around the demonstration site, as well as the on-site security and admin. A series of recces and planning conferences were chaired by COS 2 Inf Div and by the end of June the regimental plan had been activated.

Preliminary work had to be done before we could go on site to install the required communications and associated power. The two squadron **YofS 'Bunnie' Burbidge** and **'Mick' Dawson** worked with **FofS 'Zippy' Hockley** to create a workable signal plan which would fit into the existing network being provided by 1 Sqn for Ex Gryphons Gambit. The SSM and SQMS ably assisted by the storeman, **Cpl Hanson** and hindered by the TCO organised the move down to Salisbury Plain on 5 September. The only incident on the way occurred when **Sgt (ERV) Pettigrew** got geographically confused in the road works around Oxford and took his packet to Tidworth via the scenic route! The days up to the dress rehearsal on 13 September were characterised by **Sgt 'Scouse' Clair, Sig 'Piggy' Meyers, LCpl 'Bezz' Beswick** and the other 'linies' burying a commhead's worth of cable and then repairing the damage caused by the sapper plant and a battle of wills between the men on the VCP at the Bustard Hotel and

The 'coffee jockies'
Left to Right: Cpl Henderson, SSgt George, Sig Waters and Rogers

the civilian range staff as to who could or could not be allowed up the range road. The VCP commander, **2Lt John Norris** eventually won since he was able to trump the Range Liaison Officer, A Lieutenant Colonel, with the Commander UK Field Army, a Lieutenant General!

As with all such demonstrations the success is judged not by the effectiveness of the 'blue' commanders tactics but the flavour and temperature of the coffee and the efficiency of the car parking! The former was achieved by **Sgt 'Dinger' Bell** and his team of 'coffee jockies' which included **Sig Day, Rodgers** and **Townsend**, the 'Three Must-get-teas'! The car parking arrangements were a marvel of modern transport management skills. A VHF net between the VCP, the stands (controlled by **Lt 'Digger' Barnes** and the car park was superbly organised by the SSM and his team of NCP rejects, **Sgts Clair** and **Raeburn**! It can now be officially said that statements to the effect that CDS or his staff car were left at OP 12 are merely rumours.

The final run-through on 9 September was a great success: sadly the dress rehearsal, hosted by Comd UK Field Army was dogged with bad weather. As a result much of the action of Phase 1 which took place at ranges in excess of 1,500m was hidden in fog, rain and smoke generated by the highly effective BATSIM explosives. This was a relief in one respect. On the previous run-through the SSM and a team of unfortunates caught swilling coffee in 'The Lazy Signalman', the squadron canteen, were press-ganged into being itinerant fireman, bashing blazing bracken whilst the AFS dept provided expert advice. Whilst the attack was noisy, frantic and spectacular, the overall opinion was that the highlight of the day was the dramatic engagement of tanks with MILAN and TOW. Both were impressive but in different ways. Milan sped away out to ranges of 2,000m, in excess of its designed operational limit and hit the targets with unerring accuracy, clearly an indication of the high standard of training in Support Coy 1 PWO. It was generally felt that the high signature of the missile would act as a comfort to infantry faced with massed armour. Tow, on the other hand has an almost non-existent signature, with such a large warhead and a range of some 4,000m, the first indication of its use is an MBT suddenly flipping over and erupting into flames.

EH 101 A journalist from the Guardian was heard to say 'Isn't it clever how they get them to fly with such small rotor blades!'

The demonstration was a bit of an anti-climax and the biggest danger lay in everyone adopting the 'no problem' attitude. This could have proved most unfortunate as the level of audience was such that GOC 2 Inf Div could only get a seat in the sixth row. The day was hosted by CDS, Admiral of the Fleet **Sir John Fieldhouse** and the NMC party were to arrive by PUMA. Just to keep everyone on the ball the great men arrived four minutes early so it was decided to start the show three minutes early. This caused the control staff in the Excon to 'have kittens'. Since airmobile operations tend to rely on helicopters and aircraft and three minutes flying time is quite a distance, it was easy to see the cause of their concern! Nevertheless everything turned out a great success and the NMC as well as the gentlemen of the press left with a suitable idea of UK airmobile capabilities.

After the ball was over, it was amazing to see troops with the promise of an extra evening on the town breakdown and pick-up in an afternoon a site that had taken a week to erect and the Regiment has received several compliments on its efforts to make the demonstration such a success. However, the bulk of the work was done by Oscar Tp, led from Radcon by **Capt Tim Peacocke** assisted by his henchmen, **SSgt Gary Dodds, Sgt Eddie Mooney** and the 'Gang of Ten'.

A PREVIEW

As these notes are being written in the conference room at Alma Dettingen Prison, you dear reader, will have to wait until next time to follow our adventures on Op Cutter or 'How Papa Tp did porridge—without the lumps'. There is also likely to be an exciting report of Radio Tp on Ex Northern Crusade (if we can teach the Troop OC to spell in time!). So, until the next instalment of '2 Squadron—An Everday Story of Commhead Folk', keep your camnets scrimmed.

Quiz photo. 'What is this?' Answer in next issue

15 BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

by Cpl Miles

It turned out to be a dull, miserable morning in early June when 15 Bde Sig Tp left Imphal Barracks for Crowborough Training Camp on their Annual Adventure Training Exercise.

It came as a complete surprise to many that our mode of transport was a delightful, small green Army bus from Leconfield. After eight hours of fond attachment (mostly in the horizontal position) we arrived at Crowborough. As we left the bus, the first question to be asked came from **Cpl Alan 'Fatty' Evans** who enquired as to the whereabouts of the nearest restaurant!

After off-loading various items from the bus, including a large number of empty white boxes, the men were given the afternoon off to settle in—which many did in grand style by huddling together around a card table, swapping stories of previous weekends and looking forward to sampling the local brew that evening.

Most of us were looking forward to the next day's activities with a mixture of dread and anticipation. The next morning we were divided into three sections for the three activities. On offer were rock climbing with **Lt Martin Barnes**, walking with **SSgt George 'Chubby' Cook** and canoeing with **Capt Charlie Miller**.

No sooner had we breakfasted, than we were off towards Harrison's Rocks and climbing. After an eight mile drive and a mile walk we arrived where **Lt Barnes** proceeded to find the 'easiest' climb. Fortunately **LCpl Dave Stait** had brought his brush which was just as well because as we were climbing a chimney he and **LCpl Sid Vickers** got stuck half way up! At another point **LCpl Kev 'Shorty' Potts** nearly got stuck too, the unfortunate thing for the climber was that he was belaying. After everybody had had a go at this climb it was decided that we should find something a bit more 'challenging'. Challenging it proved to be, as only two of the section managed to climb this piece of glass called a rock! These were **Sig Kev Garth** and **Pete 'Woody' Wood** who on this occasion really did show a natural flair. After a little abseiling it was decided to call it a day, then it was over to the 'Huntsman' for a competitive game of billiards and a spot of lunch. After getting back to camp in the late afternoon everybody started to prepare for the night out.

The next day proved to be overcast and showery, just right for us to see what the walking had in store. **SSgt Cook** was always bubbling with enthusiasm. We started off, after a lovely breakfast, at 0800 hrs with **Sig Garth** map reading. Again he showed a natural flair and very rarely even looked at the map (is there anything this man cannot do?). After four hours and at least twenty-five miles of gruelling cross-country (still disfigured by the hurricane last year) behind us, we eventually reached the end of our moving marathon. Yes, the warm friendly atmosphere of the Huntsman where we met with the climbers. **Cpl Ian Burton** mentioned that the canoeing was rather different. This was to be our next day's activity.

Again, the morning of 5 June was cold and overcast as we tied down the canoes for our final event. After driving for about 30 miles we had arrived. As we got out of the vehicles the thought of the day was, 'where is the water?'. We were informed that the water was two miles

away. Yes! To **Cpl Evans'** dismay, we had a walk on our hands(?). About one mile on we started to hear the rushing of the water and as we came out of the trees we saw we had arrived at a large weir. We were about 13ft above the water level! We looked at each other and wondered how on earth we were going to get in! This thought was not on our minds for long as **Capt Miller** gave us a quick briefing. We were going over the top!

Cpl Sid Vickers who is frightened of heights had palpitations at this point especially when **Capt Miller** told us the water was only 4ft deep. **Sig 'Woody' Wood** however, was not to be beaten and got into his canoe straight away. As soon as the safety canoe with **LCpl Darren Welch** was in, **Sig Wood,** not to be disappointed, went over the top, closely followed by the rest of our motley crew. We then had to come out and do it again, for the camera!

With everybody now in, our main thought was to keep dry for the rest of the day. This was not to be, as our next stop was the Capsize Drill area. **Capt Miller**, being very thorough, made sure that everybody got a dip. It must be admitted that the water was not warm. As the day wore on **LCpl Kev 'Shorty' Potts** still could not progress in a straight line. He therefore managed to do a good distance more than the rest, which made him last in at the pub for dinner.

After dinner, **Capt Miller** decided to choose yet another novel way into the water, much to the onlooker's delight, nearly everybody capsized. This done, we started on what was for many the best part of the day 'canoe polo'. The keyword, as far as **Capt Miller**'s team was concerned, was 'aggression'. It was decided that **Cpl Miles** (a superb canoeist and also author of this article!) was taking the game far too seriously and so was capsized by three others, but for all this the whole day was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody who took part.

A visit to Brighton was organised for the next day and also, as a sideline, a canoeing trip across the Solent. The participants were, **Capt Miller, Cpls Miles, Rob Sear, LCpls Andy Beel** and **Darren Welch**.

After a long drive and again a thoroughly rewarding day, the team of hardened canoeists arrived back in Crowborough at about 0200 hrs, aching from muscles we did not know existed. All-in-all, it was a most enjoyable but very tiring few days.

Sig Pete Woods using the aerial entry method!

ORIENTEERING REPORT
by SSgt (YofS) Rose

As a relative newcomer to the sport (as many will testify) it is with great pleasure that I am able to report on the Regiment's successes in the District and UKLF championships to become the top Royal Signals Major Unit team for 1988.

Here is the story.

The first hurdle to overcome was the Group 5 Championships held at Chester on Sunday 20 March. This was the NE/NWDist and Scotland Championships and qualifier for the UKLF Championships. The team consisted of **Maj Brendon Hughes, Capt Pete Stephenson, SSgt Paul Smith, SSgts (YofS) Steve Rose, Sean Sutton, Sgt Ian Tepielow, Cpl Nick Cooper, LCpl Steve Sharp** and **Sig Quinten Gatens**.

On the morning of 19 March it looked as if we were not going to start at all as the team had not turned up at the Guardroom. Eventually, having gathered the team together, we set off. In the sturdy transport provided by DC Cook's, instead of the usual landrovers, we made up the lost time, despite the heavy rain!

The rain influenced our decision not to hold an outdoor training run, so having settled in to our spartan accommodation, we proceeded on some indoor training at the bar.

After a relatively early night, the day greeting us proved to be somewhat brighter than the previous day. The event was split into three courses and we had three runners entered in each. Course A—10km: **Maj Brendon Hughes, Cpl Nick Cooper** and **LCpl Steve Sharp**. Course B—7km: **SSgts (YofS) Steve Rose, Sean Sutton** and **SSgt Paul Smith**. Course C—5km: **Capt Pete Stephenson, Sgt Ian Tepielow** and **Sig Quinten Gatens**.

The courses were fairly easy going with some bad marshy areas which caused a few problems. **(YofS) Steve Rose** decided to go the 'quick way' to get to a control point and ended up waist-deep in something that left him very wet and he did not smell too pleasant either!

Our times were processed and at the end of the day we finished third overall. This ensured us a place in the UKLF Championships along with 3 RRF and 1 Cheshire.

The team managed to fit in a few training runs in the civilian league before the UKLF Championships, so going forward on a high.

The Championships loomed over the horizon and early on 14 May we were heading towards Langdale Forest for the weekend of the Competitions. Inter Unit Relay Championships on day one and Individuals on day two.

The team on this occasion consisted of the CO—**Lt Col J. H. Griffin**, 2IC—**Maj Brendon Hughes**, Adjt—**Capt Jonathan Perks, SSgts (YofS) Steve Rose, Sean Sutton, SSgt Paul Smith, Sgt Chick McCue, Cpl Mick Garbett** and **LCpl Steve Sharp**.

It was a blistering hot day and the competitors were fairly uncomfortable. To add to this, there were some control points missing on one of the courses so making some of the team very unhappy. Spirits were raised when the results came out, showing we had come tenth and so qualifying for the Army Championships the following week. The team decided to celebrate down town by raising a few more spirits!

The next morning found us back in Langdale Forest ready to compete in the Individuals. The heat again took its toll on the team, which finished very tired and hot. The only performance of note was **LCpl Steve Sharp** who won the M19 Course to become the M19 Champion. He now moves up to join the big boys in the M21 class for the 1989 season. Good luck to him!

The team heading off to Wales for the Army Championships was smaller and not so experienced; they were **Capt Stephenson, SSgts (YofS) Rose, Sutton, SSgt Paul Smith, Cpl Garbett** and **LCpl Sharp**.

The civvy minibus only just made it through the terrible winds and driving rain to Sennybridge Training Camp where we were staying. The hosts being 2 Para, did an excellent job of admin.

The Inter-Unit Relays were held in Pembrey Country Park on the first day. The area was forest, with many small hillocks, too numerous to be represented on the map. All six of us had to count in the relay to win any prize and being realistic we did not expect to come first. As the competition progressed, we saw several Corps teams being disqualified which, to be honest, surprised us all. By the end of the day, we were the eleventh Major Unit Team; but what delighted us more, we were the top Corps team.

The Major Unit winners were 94 Loc Regt RA (seven out of the top ten teams were RA!).

The second day was the Individuals and a superb effort was made by everyone, against some very tough opposition. Results as follows: M21A—9.2km-440m climb: **Steve Rose** (sixty-ninth); M21B—**Sean Sutton** (fifteenth); M19—6.7km-250m climb: **Steve Sharp** (fifth) and M40—8,2km-400m climb: **Paul Smith** (nineteenth).

Congratulations must go to all competitors for their sterling efforts throughout the season and although we were not rewarded with any prizes, the fact that we competed at Army level was prestige enough.

Our next goal is the Royal Signals Championships near Nottingham on 22/23 October 1988. So all those Units that could not handle the pace at Army level; now is your chance to take on the big boys! See you at Proteus Camp.

REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY
by Sgt J. Raeburn

The first league race of the season was held in Bradford on Wednesday 21 September. It was a two lap, seven miles undulating course. The Regimental team came a very creditable fifth out of twenty teams.

Individuals taking part were: **WO1 (RSM) Hegarty** (who came out of retirement!) with a remarkable thirty-ninth place. The rest of the team's positions were: **Sig Nick Perry**—third, **Maj Keith Arnald**—sixth (HQ NEDist), **Sgt John Raeburn**—forty-seventh, **Sig Simon Ridgeway**—fifty-fourth, **WO1 (RSM) Ewin**—sixty-eighth (HQ NEDist), **LCpl Dave Austin**—seventy-third and bringing up the rear was **Sig John Broughton**—eighty-sixth.

We are expecting to do better in the next few races of the season as new talent is posted into the Regiment in the next few months.

CCX

210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt Adam Hearn**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie MacTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Russ Lifton**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Neil Bartlett**

August was a quiet month with most of the Squadron away on leave. The 2IC managed to get away on yet another sailing course and can now take the rest of us coastal sailing . . . we can't wait! A couple of people have moved on to other fields and we welcome our new FofS, **SSgt Russ Lifton**. A warm farewell to **Lt Andrew Fletcher** off to 11 Sig Regt, and **SSgt Bob (now WO2) Nicholson** who is now at HQ 4 Sig Gp.

The last days of August found us on the road again heading for Salisbury Plain, Ex Gryphons Gambit and the NATO Military Committee Demonstration of Airmobility. The exercise lasted until the middle of September and was followed, after a short pause, by Ex Northern Crusade.

EXERCISE GRYPHONS GAMBIT/NMC DEMONSTRATION SUPPORT TROOP

The exercise which took place from 30 August to 15 September started with a mammoth road move and a guided tour of most of the motorways of Britain. We finally arrived at New Zealand Farm Camp, which looked as if nothing had changed since World War 2.

We settled in, set up, and waited for everybody else to arrive. The linemen proceeded to lay cable out of anything that moved, including Lynx helicopters, and the Supercat All Terrain Mobile Platform (ATMP). The 2IC and the training wing invited us to undergo some of our mandatory training, and always managed to time the lectures to coincide with Eastenders and other such important things.

The exercise proceeded and eventually came to a noisy end with a large battle in Imber Village. This left the way clear for our next little task, the NMC Demo. The demonstation took the form of a small airmobile war, followed by a static display of new equipment. Everyone seemed very pleased and most of the Squadron managed to see most of the displays.

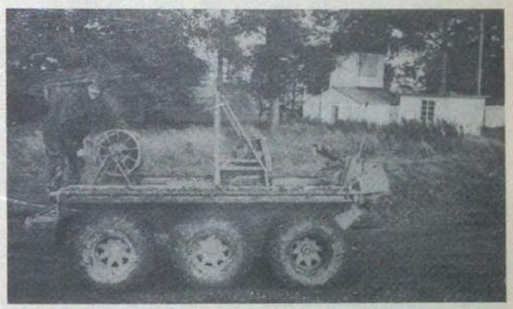
RADIO TROOP

The exercise went well and was very straightforward, with the Troop using one airmobile HQ to provide Excon, and the other practising air moves. We also undertook a lot of abseil training, including some very exciting night abseiling with 657 Sqn AAC. The training to qualify as an abseiler involves some theory, a written test and various descents from 80 to 180ft carrying various items of kit. The Squadron also requires its abseilers to complete a night descent, although this is not part of the standard course.

Cpls King and Rice practising Linelaying from a Lynx

The other items of note were the trial of the ATMP by Support Tp and of the Honda 4x4 motorbike by Radio Tp. The latter saw **Sgt Terry Gigg** diving off the bike at high speed and then rolling around in the mud, fortunately there was no damage to the bike.

We visited the ranges and under the SSM's watchful eye many APWTs and APWAs were passed. **Cpl Griffiths** won the sweepstake for the highest score of the day, and Support Tp won the fun shoot.



Sgt Bevan pretending to be a Lineman on the back of a Supercat ATMP

L to R: Cpls Cole, Griffiths, Thornton and Sgt Bevan in the butts

210 REMOVAL SERVICE

We move anything, anywhere, anytime. Our latest exploit was positioning targets for the Milan and Tow missiles for the NMC Demo. With advice and assistance from JATE we airlifted the 432 and 438 hulks into position on the Larkhill Impact Area. The whole operation went very smoothly and the targets were successfully blown to pieces on the day.

Part of the 210 removals team. *L to R:* LCpl Hyland, Cpls Walton, Hebden and Capt Hearn

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

ALL MOD CONS!

As 400 officers and men of the Regiment approached the new annex of San Sebastian Barracks in Korbecke the gates were slammed firmly in their path. 'Halt, who goes there?' rang out the challenge. '3 Armd Div Sig Regt to take over their new barracks' came the reply.

With that the gates swung open and the regiment marched into its new barracks.

For over 10 years, ever since HQ 3 Armd Div moved to Germany from the UK, the Signal Regiment has been split over three sites. Only HQ Sqn could fit into San Sebastian Barracks with the Divisional Headquarters. As a result No 1 Sqn (Ptarmigan) has spent the last decade 8km away in Salamanca Barracks, and Nos 2 and 3 Sqn (Radio) have used an old Canadian Army POW Compound as their base—thereby enabling their CO to rightly claim that he was the only CO in the British Army who had had two of his sub units in jail for the past 10 years!

All that came to an end on Thursday 15 September when the Regiment proudly took over its new working accommodation. Now the unit can boast a DM13 million custom built barracks with covered garages for its Armoured Command Vehicles, an Armoured Workshop REME, a combined Technical Stores/Workshop and MT Troop lines with all mod cons.

Maj Gen Michael Wilkes, GOC 3 Armd Div, reviewed the ceremonial parade to mark the official takeover of the barracks. The parade formed up on the old barrack square under the CO **Lt Col Ashley Truluck** before marching down to the New Build accompanied by the Band of the 17th/21st Lancers. The brief challenge at the gates was followed by a march and armoured drive-past in the New Build itself.

After the parade the Regiment's guests who included senior officers of HQ 3 Armd Div and HQ Soest Garrison, PSA officials and local dignitaries were given a conducted tour of the new buildings spiced with much good humour by the departments concerned before joining the regimental officers and warrant officers for a celebration lunch.

Now that the excitement is over, soldiers of 3 Div Sig Regt can look forward to working on their vehicles and equipment under cover for the first time since they left the UK over 10 years ago. It's been a long time coming but all who saw the New Build on 15 September reckoned it was worth waiting for.

THE BIRDS AND BEES OF PARADISE AT THE START—A LOCAL VIEW

English pirates contributed to making the seas unsafe. Mohnesee-Stockum. (Kös). A race of homemade rafts on the Mohnesee was the highlight of the 'Fun Day' (family day) held by soldiers of 3 Armd Div, Korbecke. Fifteen rafts set off for the short battle from the banks of the British Yacht Club. The course entailed paddling around two buoys. The Sqn Comd, **Maj Anthony O'Gorman**, started the race. The rafts held six soldiers or civilians, and the 15 teams in fancy dress sprinted 50m to their decorated rafts. The best turned out raft was given a prize. REME made the best impression on the judges. They called themselves the Birds and Bees of Paradise. The two ladies of the group were dressed as bees while the four men were dressed as pot plants. One group, in pirate costumes, boarded a frightening pirate vessel with small cannons and mast flying the Jolly Roger. It was a floating puppet show to the finish. The winners of the race were the MT section. The rafts had to be constructed out of any bits and pieces of material they could find. Only some of the paddles were bought. The winning team was presented with a plaque. After the race the soldiers celebrated their 'Fun Day' on the grounds of the yacht club with a barbecue and cold drinks.

1 SQUADRON

Echo Tp Adventure Training or 13 Go Mad in Meinbach. This year E Troop under the leadership of **Lt Kinnaird** decided Meinbach would be the place for a summer camp. The first day involved canoeing where some expert demonstrations by the troops proved amusing. First we had **Cpl Chas Charley** going back to his roots by attempting to climb a tree which just jumped in the way and next **Sig 'Rocky' Hudson** becoming an expert in underwater diving. Monday morning was to see two teams set out on a map reading exercise, which proved once again, much to his team's dismay, that the OC and a map really are a lethal combination. Tuesday the day of rest was to be spent walking in Koln and Wednesday was to be the OC's day where he expertly led his team to victory in the volleyball. He told me to write that! Thursday (Final Day) saw the heavens open and we were stuck with indoor swimming. Friday we returned to Soest. Our thanks to our expert cook **Sgt 'Slops' Smallman** and to **SSgt 'Geordie' Wandless** who without his early morning calls I am sure would have enjoyed it more.

TROOP PERSONALITIES

Sig Beattie
LCpl Eddie Leek
Cpl Scott
Sig Deeley
LCpl Scarff

EXERCISE ALPINE TRIANGLE

This year's adventure training camp took place in Wertach in Bavaria. A number of activities took place ranging from watersports, canoeing and windsurfing to hill walking, climbing and mountaineering.

All those who attended the camp spent a day on each activity achieving various levels of competence or incompetence. The Bavarian wind seemed to have a knack of blowing the novice windsurfer into the middle of the lake, when it would die completely and leave him stranded there.

Those canoeing engaged in the usual pastimes of talking to fish if they were unable to escape from the canoe before it capsized. The capsizing record, in shallow water, was earned by **Cpl Blondell** who managed to do it in 6in of water.

The hill walking brought groans from many people.

The mountaineering was enjoyed by a few and considered an experience by the rest. Some wished they had never been born while others (**Sig Fletcher**), on return to earth, took up ground worship.

On the whole the camp was enjoyed by all those who took part. Hopefully it gave an appetite to pursue some form of adventure training in the future.

FOXTROT TROOP SUMMER SALES 88

Nothing out of the ordinary happened on the first two days except that 073A, B, C radio relay dets found that they had to walk 1km and to do guards for the node home again.

At dusk **Cpls Steve Bullock, Denny Denton** and **Sig Cross** and **'Ronnie' Corbett** were having a discussion on the finer arts of fire fly killing, they were later to find out that they had some unexpected company listening in to their conversation.

The next morning **Cpl Denton** and crew and vehicle were forced to take a sight seeing tour of Maresfield Barracks. To return 24 hours later, trying to convince the rest of us that they had only one shower, lots of briefings and very little sleep.

NEW ARRIVALS

Sig Polson and **Cross** and welcome to you both.

GOODBYES

SSgt Willy Ironside to NI, **LCpl 'Kenny' Everett** to Delta Tp and **Sig Wigley** to Delta Tp and best wishes to you all.

RETURNS

Lt Evans from holiday in Canada—welcome!

DELTA TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt Rodgers**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Guy**
Tp Tech SSgt	**SSgt Gillham**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Shirley**

The Troop would first like to congratulate and welcome newly promoted **Sgt Mick Shirley** and say farewell to **SSgt Phil Atkinson** and his wife **Ann** who are heading off to 21 Sig Regt after a successful tour at 3 Div. Well done also to **SSgt Guy** who has just returned from a six week drill course at Pirbright and we all hope he will soon be himself again. Congratulations also to **Cpl Si Kay** and his wife **Gisela** who have just had a baby son **Benjamin** who is already beating his father on the hair stakes.

Well the troop has just returned from its yearly adventure training jaunt, this year to St Saviour in the Pyrenees. **Lt Serge Rodgers** led the trip keeping a fatherly eye on the chaps and the money. When not keeping a firm grip on the cash, **Lt Rodgers** took the mountain climbing walks pointing out various things of interest such as the rocks, waterfalls, rocks, snow formations and of course some more rocks.

The Disco Dancing competition, with a difference, was taken by **SSgt Phil Atkinson** half way up the local practice rock climbing wall. **Cpl Mark Geere** and **LCpl Seth Upton** after much leg gyrating and testing the breaking strain of the rope must have won but gave the locals hours of entertainment. They also proved no Tech should leave the warmth and comfort of his local ERV.

We also had a wonderful opportunity to visit Lourdes which we did, some of us bringing back mementos with us.

L to R: Sig Binnington, Russell, Wilberlly and LCpl Upton

1 SQUADRON SUPERTEAMS 1988

Report by Lt I. P. Birleson

Every inter-squadron sports competition tends to see the same faces representing their respective squadrons. The idea behind the Superteam concept was to exercise the armchair enthusiasts in 1 Sqn and see how they would perform as teams over 10 varied events.

As I was organising the event I decided to include several tortuous endurance events. As fate would have it, one of C Troop's members dropped out on the day due to injury so I ended up competing!

The day of the Superteams event was one of the hottest of the summer, and whilst the wives enjoyed sunbathing, the five teams battled through the events. The events were:

Blind Drive:	A short course through traffic cones. The navigator verbally guides the 'Hooded' driver.
Soccer Skills:	Kicking a ball into a target area. Total team score in five minutes.
Basketball:	Highest number of baskets in five minutes.
Endurance:	Parallel bars and pokey drill.
More Endurance:	Leg raise and ski thighs.
Target Golf:	Chipping a golf ball into a target area. Total points from five balls per team member.
Cricket Stumping:	The total number of single stumps hit in five minutes.
1km Run:	Team effort, last man counts.
4 ton Push:	The team pushes the 4 ton over a short course.
Tennis Service:	Four team members serve as many times as possible accurately into the target area in five minutes.

Each of the competing teams fancied themselves for the Superteam Trophy (especially **SSM 'Geordie' Dobson** with his usual blind confidence in his SHQ team). The events turned out a few unknown Superheroes. **LCpl Chris Symonds** gained the maximum time for the unbearable ski thighs and **Sig 'Arnie' Gray** won the individual leg raise.

By the end of the day all of the teams were close and C and E Troops were joint first. **SSM Dobson** had already thought of a deciding event, so off went C and E Troops for a matchplay contest. Five team members were picked to play their opposite numbers and after the first four it was still a dead heat. Time for the shoot out between **'Sevvy' Birleson** and **'F.Z' Wandless**. Sad to say, due to extreme bad luck for me and unbelievable fortune for **SSgt Wandless**, E Troop finally lifted the Superteam Trophy. Watch out for next year E Troop!

2 SQUADRON

FAREWELLS AND HELLOS

There have been a number of changes in the last couple of months including the following:-

Lt Simon Spiers and **2Lt Tim Allen** both 'off' to RMCS Shrivenham. We would like to thank **Simon** for his gift of a car stereo for the Squadron raffle.

Tim will be missed by a number of people including **Cpl Smith**, the 2IC and OC Oscar Tp. By the way could we please have back all the Oscar Tp '2066', they may be useful. We wish them both luck in their studies.

We also say bye to **WO2 (SSM) McCormick** and his wife **Linda. Frank** leaves on promotion and will be serving as MTO in a London TA Regt.

SSgt (FofS) Plumb and his wife **Dawn** leave on posting to 7 Sig Regt and will be greatly missed by the Squadron and in particular the Rugby team.

Sgt McKinnon leaves Oscar Tp to serve with the TA and we wish him all the best for the future.

We say hello to **WO2 (SSM) Stan Wise** and his wife **Janice** who join us after a tour in Northern Ireland. This is not the first visit of the SSM to the Iron Division and we hope he enjoys his tour with 2 Sqn.

EXERCISE HOOK TRIANGLE

This was the Squadron Summer camp in the Mosel area of West Germany. Most of the Squadron took part in windsurfing, cycling and sub-aqua diving along with the normal challenge pursuits of hill walking, rock climbing and canoeing.

The area of Southern Germany that was used by us is in the US sector of Germany and seemed a golden opportunity to enhance US/UK relationships so with the help of Lt Allen Tomlinson USAF a number of exchange visits occured including a tour of airbase communication facilities and an impressive tour of a number of F-14, but it was not all work. A party was thrown by the Americans at which **LCpl Glanville** our rock leader demonstrated his skills and personally improved US/UK relationships with the US NCO Corps.

In return we had a party at our camp site where **2Lt Tim Allen** showed himself not to be the man he said he was. This could have been due to the exertion of the week before or the water temperature. The Americans took part in many of our activities with great enthusiasm.

In one way or another Ex Hook Triangle proved to be an experience that this officer will not forget for a long time.

LCpl Taylor looking more immovable than the rock itself

RAFT RACE

It was a very overcast and miserable day for the start of the Squadron inter-troop triathlon and raft race.

After a hard pressed run, swim and cycle all three troops seemed to be equally matched and all rested on the raft race.

By default Romeo Tp were declared the winners. This was celebrated with an all ranks families barbecue. Luckily by this time the weather had improved and it turned out very nice for swimming in the Möhnesee as the OC, **2Lt Baker, SSM Wise** and some others found out.

Sig Stevie Lynch disco dances with the mast

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Bob Brannigan**
2IC	**Capt Mike Shaw**
WO2 (SSM)	**Derek Coker**
YofS	**Andy Campbell**
FofS	**Steve Driver**
OC P Tp	**Neil Fraser**
OC N Tp	**Alan Stringer**

Welcome to **YofS Andy Campbell** who replaced **YofS Chris Pugh** who has gone off to Rheindahlen to improve his golf. Congratulations on your promotion. We also say an early farewell to **WO2 Derek Coker** who leaves for the rainy hills of Ireland; our best wishes and thanks to **Derek** and **Liz**. Congratulations to **Steve** and **Carole Driver** on the additon of **Nickie** to the family. Has Records solved our manning problem? We now have two **Drivers, Campbells, Thomas**'s, **Stokers, Smarts** and **Hopkins**. Beware if you have the same name as anyone listed below.

PAPA TROOP

ARRIVALS

LCpl 'Bros' Thomas from 30 Sig Regt.

DEPARTURES

LCpl 'Taff' Furnival to 7 Sig Regt after five years on the Panzers of Papa Tp.

Sig 'Jock' Edmiston to 8 Inf Bde. Good luck and congratulations on your marriage.

Since the last issue of *The Wire* the troop has been doing exciting things such as PRE and 2nd line preparation intermingled with a little drill for the 'New Build' Parade.

Whilst you read this certain members of the troop will be adventure training in Canada namely **2Lt Neil Fraser, Sig 'Benson' Whyte, 'Nax' McNay** and **Crookes**.

NOVEMBER TROOP

ARRIVALS

Sgt Keith Fisher, LCpls Andy Thomas and **Chris Swithenbank**.

DEPARTURES

Sgt Ken Fudge, Sig Rick Keates and **Mark Kendrick**.

Not a lot of news from the troop for this period. It is at the moment deployed as Hunter Force in support of 14 Sig Regt.

Is there any truth to the rumour that **SSgt 'Jimmie' Jameson** has volunteered for a posting? We have seen his posting order.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj David Proctor**
2IC	**Capt Mark Eaton**
OC A Tp	**2Lt Jim Prior**
OC B Tp	**Lt Lyndon Campbell-Black**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Jeff Hattersley**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) John Martin**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Billy Haslam**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Charlie Foster**

WELCOMES

We would like to welcome to the Squadron; **Sgt Alan Speight RPC, Cpl Gary** and **Sharon Cole, Cpl Ray** and **Karen Lang, LCpl 'Skev' Skevington, Sig Jack Gorman** and **Dick Whitaker**.

DEPARTURES

The Squadron thanks the following for all their hard work during their tour and wishes them and their families all the best for the future; **Cpl John** and **Mandy Davies** to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, **LCpl Pete** and **Kay Forrest** to School of Signals, **Cpl Bob** and**Jean Wilson** to School of Signals, **Cpl Graham** and **Anita Preece** to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Sig Pat Gray** to 244 Sig Sqn.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **LCpl Simon** and **Liz Graham** on the birth of their daughter **Stacey**, also to **Sgt Taff** and **Sharon Leibe** on the birth of their son **Michael**.

SPORTS

On the sporting front the Squadron has continued to be successful in Golf, Cricket and Athletics.

ATHLETICS

The season started off in high spirits with the Inter Troop competition at Division a close run contest which saw us pip 1 Squadron to the winning tape.

The Inter Troop meeting was held once again at the BAOR stadium and saw Rhine Tp take first position from Ardennes and then bringing up the rear was SHQ Tp.

The Morrison Cup, held at the BAOR stadium, produced yet another ding-dong battle with old rivals 207 and 200 Sig Sqns who beat us into third place by a margin of a couple of points, well done lads.

The 3 Armd Div stage of the BAOR Minor Units championships, also held at the BAOR stadium, saw the Squadron's name on the winners trophy for the second year running, beating 3 Armd Fd Amb and 11 Armd Wksps REME by a comfortable margin.

And so to the big one, the BAOR finals at, yes, you have guessed it, the BAOR stadium yet again. Unfortunately 'home advantage' did not help us as we came fifth in what was a high grade competition. What ever the final results, the competitions were, as always, hard fought but sporting and we would like to thank all our adversaries for an interesting season, we look forward to next season with relish.

CRICKET

The Squadron team has had numerous successes on the Cricket field, most notably winning the 3 Armd Div Minor Cup beating 3 Ord Bn by 47 runs in the final. Man of the match was **Cpl Jasper Parrott**.

GOLF

The Squadron Golf team is virtually unbeatable in the Paderborn area. With the talents of **Sig Lance Malin** hitting the Squadron team to victory on a number of occasions. If you have a handicap of seven, or less, apply for a posting to 202 Sig Sqn.

POSTING IN AND OUT

We said a sad farewell to **Sgt Hawley** who will be remembered for his loquacity and humour. We wish him well as a Yeoman to be. **Sig Cooney** departed for 11 Sig Regt. **Cpl Doughty** finally proved that delegation is the art of command by gaining promotion on posting to a RLD at 19 Fd Regt. **Sgt Dorian** has gone to Maastricht and **Sig Stewart** to 602 Sig Tp.

We welcome the following; **Cpl Stuart, Sig Kinsey, Sgt Speight, Sig Dawson, King, Kerr, Fallowfield** and **Hubbard**.

•

AWARDS

Cpl P Emerson was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Congratulations from all members of the Squadron.

SUMMER CAMP

It was in the foothills of the Zugspite and Alpspite overlooking Garmisch Partenkirchen that the Squadron held its Summer Camp Ex Maiden Triangle.

The activities included: windsurfing, sailing, hill walking, canoeing, volleyball and a raft rapids trip. Naturally there was plenty of time in the evening for the usual recreational pursuits.

Each day began with an invigorating run led by **SSM Budden**, through the woods to the accompaniment of the clanking of cattle bells as they too took their early morning exercise. Each group then dispersed to their activities for the day. **SSgt Nigel Sloane** and **Kevin Nelson** led the hill walking which proved arduous and uncomfortable but afforded panoramic views when the fog lifted. **Lts Jim Prior** and **Lyndon Campbell-Black** took their groups sailing. **Sig Lance Malin** found himself bedraggled and miserable after being caught out in the centre of the lake together with **Lt Lyndon Campbell-Black** when a thunderstorm rolled in.

BRIGADE AND BATTLEGROUP TRAINER

Due to our proximity to Sennelager Training Centre, it was decided that, rather than operate from the mock-ups, we would take our usual command vehicles and wire into the computers. The main entrance to BBGT looked more like spaghetti junction after **FofS SSgt John Martin** had finished the cabling. **SSgt (SQMS) Billy Haslam** ran a shop which extracted money from the BG and Bde Staff although they objected continually when charged for cookhouse tea. **SSgt Billy Haslam** said in defence 'Well that's the way we do things in Scotland'.

SPORTS ROUND UP

INTER TP COMPETITION

The Inter Tp sports competition has been drawing to a climax. After an early run of flukey results the SHQ team stormed into the lead. Rhine Tp sadly lagged behind in third position. The inter tp cross country saw the legendary **Sgt Charlie Foster** beaten into third place by **Cpl Jock Castle** and **Sig Lefty Wright**, Rhine Tp won and began climbing their way back into the competition. Rugby came next but SHQ won easily with Ardennes second. With eight of the Squadron hockey team in Rhine Tp they felt fairly confident in the next competition. However, after two 0—0 draws the third match between Rhine and Ardennes needed at least one goal to prevent a three way tie. Eventually Rhine Tp did score and won the match 2—0 with some fine individual play by **Sig Dave Pook**. The competition was alive again. With just the squash and football left to play, SHQ Tp had a commanding lead over Ardennes and Rhine Tps but each competition revealed fresh talent and tenacity. The squash exposed some hidden depths in **Cpl Geordie Tierney, LCpl Errol Ricketts, Cpl Spider Webb** and the old man of the competition **SSM Phil Budden**. Rhine Tp again had a chance (an outside one admittedly) to win provided SHQ lost two matches to Ardennes.

In the event they won 4—1 and so scrambled to a shaky victory (again!) We won the football competition although **Sgt Alan Speight, Sgt Jimmy Gray** and **SSgt SQMS Billy Haslam** proved that it is a game in which experience counts more than youthfulness whilst **Cpl Bert Curtin** proved that it's possible to hit the posts, keepers and defenders and never actually the net as Rhine Tp 'was robbed' by Ardennes. So SHQ romped home winners of the 1988 competition followed by Ardennes and then Rhine.

Now to move on, or as the **SSM Phil Budden** would say 'what else is coming up recently!'

GARRISON SPORTS DAY

Four teams of fit young men burst on to their various pitches to play football, rugby, volleyball and hockey against Squadron and Company teams throughout the Garrison. It would be pleasant to dwell on the successes of all four teams on a grey, windy day but, in truth, only the hockey team manged to get past the first round of their competitions. With some good tactical hints from the OC the hockey team swept all before them to win their competition. Individual match results were 3—1, 3—0, 0—0, 6—0, 3—2, 4—0 and 6—0 in the final. **Cpl Paul Harding** played ferociously while **Sig Lance Malin** enjoyed the extra space of six-a-side so that he could stretch his legs and play a classic wing game.

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

The Sportsman of the Year was announced at the 1988 Sportsman dinner which the entire Squadron attends. The Guest of Honour was the CO **Lt Col A. E. G. Truluck**. Squadron sports colours were again awarded.

Unfortunately **Lt Jim Prior** was not present as he was battling with the elements in the Baltic having taken four landlubbers from Kiel in an attempt to reach Denmark. In the high wind and seas **Sig Lefty Wright** took an involuntary swim attempting to dock before the yacht when it swung away from the jetty.

An so to the awards:-

Best Sqn Team	Hockey
Most promising Sportsman	**Sig Lance Malin**
Sportsman of the Year	**Cpl Spider Webb**
2nd Sportsman of the Year	**Sgt Charlie Foster**

The dinner was followed by the grand opening of the Bull Inn by the CO. It has been rebuilt by the Squadron and in particular, by **Cpl Geordie Tierney, Sig Ray Fallowfield** and **Pte Brian Bozcko** under the auspices of **SSgt Kevin Nelson**.

BISMARK RELAYS

Report by Sgt Charlie Foster

The squadron team departed for Herford early on Saturday morning to take part in the Bismark Relay. The race consists of each member of a team of six completing a 4.92km course over undulating terrain.

After an excellent start by **Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black** the team was placed fourth behind FOD Dulmen A and B teams and our main Divisional rivals 204 Sig Sqn. After good legs by **Sig Paddy Gorman, Bdr Garry Young** and **Sig Andy Dawson** the team had maintained their position in fourth place and were two minutes down on 204.

With our fastest leg runners **Sgt Charlie Foster** and **Cpl Jock Castle** yet to run it was touch and go whether we would be able to make up the difference and gain third place. By this time FOD Dulmen A and B teams, incidently the Army and BAOR champions, were more than five minutes ahead and with no chance of any team catching them. **Sgt Charlie Foster** set off like a whippet and during his leg overtook two major unit teams and made up two minutes on 204. All that was required now was for the new team star **Cpl Jock Castle** to overtake the 204 runner and stay ahead of the other runners. This he did with some ease and the squadron came in first Corps minor unit.

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204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

EXERCISE AUTUMN TRIANGLE

Despite torrential rainfall on the way to Southern Germany there was plenty of sunshine to satisfy everyone during the Squadron adventurous training week held in the Allgau region. The Squadron used the 1st RHA hut in Haag, near Wertach, as its base. Just over 20 members of the Squadron were able to benefit from the activities on offer. The two main instructors, **SSgts Brian Tanner** and **Grant**—a 'recruit' from the 14/20KH Pay Office—laid on mountaineering, abseiling and windsurfing as the main activities. Although most suffered from a severe loss of balance by the end of the week everyone had managed to get the sailboards moving in one direction or another upon the nearby Gruntensee. One or two individuals were overcome by a feeling of vertigo as they edged daintily over the cliff ledges during the abseiling sessions but all lived to tell the tale. The highlight of the mountaineering was the trek along the Hindelanger Klettersteig—the sheer drops on either side at various points along the route made most people a little more attentive about where they placed their feet!

BRAVO TROOP
EXERCISE PYRENEES TRIANGLE

The team set off for Spain one fine Saturday morning in August—**LCpl 'Jaws' Taylor**'s XR3 in the lead, followed by **Lt 'Fred' Whichelo**'s excuse for a VW Golf, with a trail of insecure nuts and bolts from the PRI minibus at the rear. Eight members of Bravo Tp, **LCpl John Sennett** (our climbing instructor from MT) and **2Lt Gwilym Vaughan RAOC** all along for the ride.

Our destination was Viella, a Spanish town just across the French border in the central Pyrenees. This is the Basque region—an outstandingly beautiful mountain area with its own special character. Ruined churches and abbeys perch perilously on the splintered rock buttresses gazing from darkened, recessed arches across the sierra of the foothills to the great snow-peaked summits of the range. The highest, and most snowbound, summit is Pico de Aneto (3404m) and this was our objective.

On arrival it was first things first. We selected a good volleyball court, stuck up the net, and started. Later we conveniently discovered that the site was ideal for our tents too!

The first day was spent rock-climbing, when we were introduced not only to ropes and rocks but also to the numerous 'bug-eyed monsters' hovering around intent on British blood. The heat was blistering and by 1600 hrs our bottles were empty. **LCpl Matt Donoghue** had finally decided to remove his lead-weighted boots, and only **Sig Stevie 'Wedgie' Welland** was keen to find yet another route up the face. When **'Wedgie'** and the other keen climbers finally returned to the minibus (conveniently parked within a stones throw of three likely bistros) they were greeted by a phalanx of empty cola and lemonade bottles. Most were owned by **Cpl Andy Cummings** who was wittering smugly about the size of his last pay packet, while for once in his life **Sig Bill Pirrie** was silenced by 'Bagpuss' on Spanish TV.

The wise owl of the Squadron, SSgt Brian Tanner, takes the easy route to the top of the Nebelhorn

After such a tough day one would have thought everyone's immediate requirement would be sleep, and for most it was. However, our 'teeny bopper' trio were soon changed and up and away to nearby Viella.

The next day we started the ascent of Pico de Posets (3375m)—an unfortunate name for a very beautiful mountain. The view from the top, early the next day, was quite stunning and provided our best photographic material. By that stage **LCpl 'Jaws' Taylor** and **Sig Bill Pirrie** had been reduced to quivering wrecks by their proximity to a precipitous knife edge leading to the summit.

We descended to the town of Benasque on time for the bistro's opening before moving on to climb Rico de Aneto 3404m. Unfortunately a glacier stetches for the final 4km of the route to the summit and, without crampons or ice axes, it would have been courting disaster to attempt it.

We returned eventually to the comfort of a long shower at the campsite, and a good few sips of Sangria before going to bed. We awoke next morning, worn and battered, to set up a Tyrolean Traverse across a nearby river. **LCpl 'Knotty' Sennett** and **2Lt Vaughan** finally produced a system which was 'guaranteed only to wet your feet'. Those not already soaked achieved that aim while dunking **Lt Whichelo** in the deepest part. (Well we've got to do something, it's your last exercise!)

The final day in Spain saw another days climbing and swimming for most while the two subbies, by now seriously affected by the heat, trogged up Aneto again. Finally at the summit, another photo session began. Five clicks later **2Lt Vaughan**'s camera reached No 36 so he 'rewound the film' to discover there wasn't one. **Lt Whichelo** lost his smile when, finally down from the mountain, they drove off. A loud clatter and trail of camera debris announced the fall of his camera from the car roof where he'd placed it moments before. (No-one ever told him Starsky & Hutch have magnets on their light.)

A tearful farewell to the bar staff at Camping Forcanada then we departed on the long homeward trial. Conveniently adjusted mapping placed Andorra la Vella en route, so Ronald McDonald once again earned a pretty penny from the British Army. Andorra abounds in tax-free shops and some excellent bargains were negotiated before we made our way towards France.

Only one stop remained—Biscarrosse la Plage on the west coast. This is a marvellous resort and no-one wanted to leave—least of all **Sig Phil Cooper**. It took him a long cool drink and a helicopter ride

Hawaii-Five-O style (almost) as Sig Jason Allison returns safely to shore after sailing beyond the point of no return for a beginner

2Lt Gwilym Vaughan RAOC flies the flag and shows some leg atop Pico de Anets

to find the solution, but he eventually managed an extra day.

Finally then, we returned to the exotic delights of York Barracks, Munster having achieved most of our aims, and well on the way to that all-important tan.

Cpl Andy Cummings first comment to **Lt Fred Whichelo** on his return; 'Sir, did you know the other troop had a day off while we were away; when can we take a day in lieu!'

HAPPENINGS

A warm welcome to our recent arrivals—**Sig Phil Cooper, Jason Allison** and **Jim Gordon**.

Fond farewells to **Lt Fred Whichelo** (off to RMCS for three years), **Sgt Chris Nutt** (to Blandford on his Yeomans Course and to **Jacky Nutt** who has been the life and soul of so many parties. Also farewell to **LCpl Bob Inglesant** (off to 4 ADSR as Cpl—congratulations) and **LCpl Stevie Holt** (off to 244 Sig Sqn to do some work at last!)

Finally congratulations are due to **Sig Adam Yafai**—Grade A on his 2—1 Upgrading, **Sig Stevie Matthews** and **Britte**—on their marriage, and **Cpl Andy Cummings**—on the birth of **'Micky G'**.

3 ARMD DIV TRIATHLON—THE 204 FREAKS

On a bright sunny day the '204 Freaks', better know as **Cpl Keith Balsdon, Phil Holland** and **LCpl Miles Webb**, set off for Korbecke in search of some light calisthenics in the form of the 3 Armd Div Triathlon.

Having left the briefing room in San Sebastian Barracks for the drive down to the Mohnesse for the start of the swim early optimism soon faded, when the team transport **(Cpl Phil Holland**'s charabanc) broke down on the camp ridge with only five minutes to go before the start. Despite this minor set back the team managed to reach the start line in time. The first event was an 800m swim. Although the colour of the water left much to be desired, the temperature of the Mohnesse was surprisingly warm. The next event was the cycling and this proved to be the hardest event, especially for the novice duo **Holland** and **Webb**. In spite of all the hills and steep gradients **Cpl Keith Balsdon** finished the second leg well up amongst the leaders. The final event was the run. The transition from cycling to running is inevitably difficult for many to make smoothly. After wobbling along for the first four miles **Cpl Holland** was eventually overcome by muscle spasms; nevertheless he struggled on to the end, finishing in 51st place. **LCpl Webb** came 43rd, whilst **Cpl Keith Balsdon** put in a magnificent performance to finish in second place. Overall the team was placed seventh—a creditable result for a first stab at the event.

3 ARMD DIV CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE—
1ST RACE KORBECKE

The strong field of almost 200 runners set off promptly for the sports field above the picturesque Mohnesse and first to show from the Squadron was **Cpl Keith Balsdon** running well up with the leading group and looking fresh and well recovered after his outstanding performance in achieving runner up in the recent 3 Div Triathlon Competition. **Sig Jimbo Hawkins** kept the leaders in sight for most of the race but the fast six mile course took its toll in the later stages. The veteran in the team **WO2 (SSM) Saveall** plodded on and even managed to pass a few of the spring chickens from the Squadron notably **Sig Stevie Lynch** whose recent spell of leave in the UK obviously left him drained of valuable energy.

The rest of the team showed good form, and at the end of the race we were first Minor Unit which was a tremendous start to the season for a team that has just recently lost two of its stars notably **Cpl Jeff Martin** to 1 ADSR and **Lt Fred Whichelo** to Shrivenham.

BISMARK RELAYS

The 12th annual Bismark relays were held at Herford on 24 September 1988, hosted by 7 Sig Regt. The Squadron team had trained hard for the event and was hoping to be placed in the top three Minor Unit team placings. Unfortunately a couple of days prior to the race two members of the team suffered slight injuries and this obviously had a drastic effect on our overall performance. **Cpl Keith Balsdon** set off on the first leg and considering he was running in the company of 1 ADSR, 7 Sig Regt and FOD Dulmen did well to run the three mile undulating course in 16 mins 41 secs and hand over to **Sig Jimbo Hawkins** in the position of second Minor Unit. **Sig Jimbo Hawkins** ran a very good leg and even managed to overtake the Dulmen runner to hand over to **WO2 (SSM) Saveall** as first Minor Unit. The hard fast course proved too much for the old man of the team but the SSM hung on well and handed over to **Sig Stevie Newman** still in third position in the Minor Units. FOD Dulmen with two teams entered and a lot of stength in depth gradually pulled away and as **Sig Stevie Lynch** brought us home he was just pipped at the post by 202 Sig Sqn to rob the team of a prize for third position. Still a very creditable position of fourth was achieved and the team had an enjoyable day out meeting old acquaintances and, after all, there is always next year isn't there?

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC SQN	**Maj Andy Grey**
2IC	**Capt Vyv Thatcher**
OC A Tp	**Capt Mike Stapleton**
OC B Tp	**Capt Jim Morley-Kirk**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Frank McAleer**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Ian Parry**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Dave Boxall**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Jeff Treen**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Barry Glossop**

WELCOMES

We would like to welcome to the Squadron **Sgt Tony Gaston** from 11 Sig Regt on promotion, **Sgt Gordon Smith REME** from LAD 3 ADSR on promotion, **Cpl 'Phil' Phillips** for Tech Wksps 3 ADSR, and a wealth of talent from 8 Sig Regt and AA Coll Harrogate in the form of **Sig Addison, Anderson, Buch** and **Baker**. Have a good tour.

DEPARTURES

We say good luck and farewell to **Cpl Tony Howard, LCpl Bill Bailey, Sig Steve Gartside** and **'Taff' Davies**. To other posts **Cpl Martin Kendall** to 8 Inf Bde, **Cpl Neil Fletcher** to 22 Sig Regt as ASgt, **LCpl Bill Scott** to 238 Sig Sqn as ACpl. All the best.

BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES

Congratulations to **Cpl Terry** and **Liz Crook** on the birth of their daughter **Emma**. To **LCpl Martin Trew** and **Erica, Sig 'Tich' Sheard** and **Catherine** and **LCpl Kev O'Sullivan REME** and **Helga**, congratulations on your marriage.

GENERAL

Over the past couple of months the Squadron has been recovering from exercises: two Summer Camps, Ex Oberland Triangle in Switzerland and Ex Spitz Triangle in Bavaria. Not to be out done by Sport Aid, Bravo Tp organised a charity swim and also managed in a small Brigade Exercise for good measure. We must not forget the golf team—you just can't keep them down!

CHARITY SWIM

After extensive sub-aqua training in Soest outdoor pool, members of Bravo Tp prepared for the big day! The event: a sponsored swimming event to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind and Soest Kinderhiem. The brain-child of **Capt James Morley-Kirk**, his plan of attack was simple. His task was to change thirty concrete turtles into Mark Spitzers! Training was on a regular basis to prevent certain persons escaping the net. **Cpl John Farnell** stapled sponsorship forms to thirty reluctant foreheads to ensure no-one suffered temporary amnesia on the big occasion.

Squads were sent out to waylay unsuspecting shoppers in Soest, Werl and Lippstadt. The squads reported that we were gaining ground, and money. We regrouped, had tea and arranged a rematch starting at 1400 hrs prompt. We equipped ourselves with empty pickled onion bottles affixed with stickers portraying our loyalties and allegiance to the cause deployed in box formation, advanced cautiously. Shoppers dropping foreign money into the jars were dealt with swiftly by **Sig Steve Gartside** who somehow managed to persuade them all to be generous.

After a few days of R & R for the hit squads, we regrouped. The HQ was the outdoor pool at Soest ready for the big day. It was a dull overcast day, which showed no signs of brightening up. then after a few words on encouragement from **Sgt Roy Boulton** 'suppose we'd better get on with it' we were off!

First to go were the sharks of the troop, boldly and swiftly they completed the set mile in style, then came the slow moving but powerful tugs of the troop driving through the water with strength, undeterred by the large bellowing human obstacles of the Germans. Then came the unsure floatsum bobbing up and down in the ripples as they struggled to complete a length of the pool.

Sig Andy Cartlidge was observed sneaking out of the pool at the far end after completing a few of the required thirty lengths, the men collected into a pack giggling with anticipation at the forthcoming performance. **Andy** arrived back on the scene wearing a crafty grin and civvies, and a scientific experiment was in the making.
Question: Would a fully clothed signalman, thrown at the correct speed skip across the water like a skimming stone?
Answer: No! He ends up looking like a drowned rat.

The day ended with over 2,000 DM being raised for the two charities, the race goes on this weekend with a stall at 3 Army Air Corps open day, the proceeds of which go to these two worthwhile causes.

EXERCISE IRON BALLISTA

Ex Iron Ballista was a fire control CPX designed to practise Brigade and battle Gp headquarters in the procedures for the command and control of firepower.

It took place within barracks at Dortmund—Alpha Tp supplying the command AFVs for the service and support of the staff in headquarters and excon.

Generally, the exercise provided us with an ideal opportunity to confirm all those disciplines and drills required to make the 'complex' tick.

Capt Mike Stapleton (OC A) managed to get a little sleep, so he says; **SSgt Tony Talbott** and **SSgt (FofS) Dave Boxall** got home early, **Cpl Steve Martin** is still searching for his benches, and **LCpl Andy Harriott** did a 'three-quarters inward tuck with pike' dive from the top of his 436—the tarmac on which he landed is recovering.

SQUADRON GOLF TEAM
THE TEAM
SSgt Sherlock
Cpl Hamish Hermiston (Captain)
Cpl Bill Martin
Cpl Steve Martin
LCpl Paul Boothman
LCpl Andy Harriott

3 ARMD DIVISION INTER-UNIT GOLD COMPETITION

The draw was made and we had 19 Fd Regt (RA) in the first round. This would be a formidable task as they have a very experienced golf team. The Sqn team made light work of it beating the Gunners by over twenty holes. The next round was against 2 Fd Regt (RA) who proved to be much stiffer opposition. Our numbers 2 and 3 were beaten and we were six holes down then **LCpl 'Thumper' Harriot** came in—six holes up. Everything depended on our number 4, **LCpl Paul Boothman**. If we lost this match we were out of the divisional and BAOR finals. We shouldn't have worried the 'Rice Crispy Taster' came in ten holes up. The Squadron was now through to the divisional and BAOR Finals.

The day of the finals came along, unfortunately we were on exercise but with permission from our OC **Maj Andy Grey**, we were given time off to compete. The boys didn't let him down, we came runners up to 1 Royal Scots after having to play off a nerve racking game against 17/21 Lancers. Final placings were:-

1st 1 RS
2nd 206 Signal Squadron
3rd 17/21 Lancers
4th 50 Missile Regt RA

This was no mean achievement for a minor unit—and now on to the BAOR finals at Sennelager Golf Club later this month—eat your heart out 3 ADSR!

EXERCISE SPITZ TRIANGLE

Early reports from Bavaria confirm that Bravo Tp mountaineering team is currently wearing breathing apparatus to cope with the lack of oxygen at the present height.

CHARITY FISHING MATCH

Cpl John McBride and **Sig Chris Scales** recently gave up their weekend to take part in a charity 24 hour fishing match held in Hamm. They are both members of Soest Otters Fishing Club and with great enthusiasm launched themselves into the task of teaching young anglers to fish while raising money for the Soest Kinderhiem at the same time.

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4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

CO's FAREWELL

On Monday 26 September the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dined out the CO, **Lt Col Adrian Schuler**, who leaves us after over two years in command for the corridors of power in the MOD.

During the evening the CO was presented with a Silver Flying Ptarmigan on behalf of the Sergeants' Mess by **WO1 (RSM) Mick Boyle** as a memento and thanks for the close interest he took in Mess affairs.

After a tremendous evening the CO was awarded an AFV Commanders Licence and invited to drive home in one of the Wavell vehicles, courtesy of 2 Sqn and **WO2 (SSM) Brian Howe** the PMC. The RMP in the guise of **WO2 (SSM) Ken Rae** and one of his detachments arrested the Colonel for being improperly dressed. Fortunately the RMP was persuaded to release him into Mess Custody under the supervision of the RSM and PMC.

We wish the CO and wife **Caroline** all the best for their tour in London and hope to see them again in the future.

Lt Col Adrian Schuler after receiving his AFV Commanders Licence!

TUG OF WAR

Having ended last season on a high note of winning the Morrison Cup and the BAOR 560kg Plate as well as runners-up in the BAOR 640kg Plate, hopes and aims were high for 1988.

As usual the story of postings, courses and injuries took their toll leaving just five of the original squad ie; **WO2 (BSM) Barney Barnish RA, Sgt Mick Kindness, Cpls Pat Murphy, Ian Lawton** and **Bas Bastow**.

In spite of that it was an optimistic bunch who nervously picked up their first rope in competition at the opening meet of the RCZ/RAF(G) League. We didn't win, in fact we came fourth and **Sig Rick Gay** was acclaimed somersault champion for 1988 (just wish he wouldn't do it on the rope!) but there were good signs and everyone was determined to improve.

After a lot more training and another five RCZ/RAF(G) league meetings the improvement was impressive, even **Sig Maca Niles** looked as if he was getting the hang of it, to the extent that on most occasions he would move his right foot on '1' and his left on '2'.

The Divisional Championships were on the last day of Ex Mainbrace and we expected weight problems but the scales were weighing light, so much so that **WO2 (BSM) Barney Barnish** and **Sgt Kev Jenkins**, at 79kg and 92kg respectively, found themselves in the 560kg team.

A point of note here was the **WO2 (BSM) Barney Barnish** was pulling only three weeks after walking non-stop for over 300 miles in an attempt to regain his world record. Anyway the training paid off as we took the 640kg and 680kg titles as well as coming third in the 560kg class and everyone returned to the Exercise with a smile on his face. Now training took on a new meaning and at the end of May we travelled to Windsor for the inaugural Princess Royal's Open Inter-Service Competition. It was this stage that the 560kg team, headed by **Cpl Robbo Robson**, awarded themselves medals as the 'pin-man' champions of 1988 much to the amusement of the 'heavies'.

With entries of seventeen and twenty-five teams respectively in the 560kg and 640kg classes it was always going to be a busy day and we were delighted when both teams reached the semi-finals, the 560kg team only losing 2—1 after being inches away from a 2—0 victory.

The hero of the day (or so he says) was **LCpl Rob Sells** pulling as anchor for both teams. Everone else said it wasn't the scales just the normal 640kg anchor. **Cpl Pat** (I'm always 80kg) **Murphy** was closer to 85kg after a spot of leave.

Three days later it was the Morrison Cup and probably the best tug of war competition seen at our championships for many years. At the end of the day we retained our title but not without a hard fight against a very impressive 22 Sig Regt team. The older members of the Corps should note that this was probably the last appearance for **Sgt Mick Kindness,** it is even rumoured he has clocked up more Morrison Cup appearances than the coach **WO2 (SSM) Pete Halstead**.

The next day (some people are gluttons for punishment!) we turned

THE REGIMENT'S TUG OF WAR TEAM
Back Row: WO2 (BSM) Barnish RA, LCpl Legg (22 Sig Regt), Sig Hamilton, LCpl Hudson, WO2 (SSM) Halstead (Coach), Lt Col A. J. Schuler (CO), Cpl Fraser (22 Sig Regt), LCpl Back, Cpl Murphy, Sgts Jenkins and Kindness
Front Row: Sig Tomlinson, Jones, Hearne, Clare, Cpls Robson, Lawton, LCpl Innes, Sig Shawcross, Gay, LCpl Hanley and Sig Niles
Absent on Duty: Cpl Bastow, Sig Reid, Busby, LCpl Hawksworth (REME), Cpl Walters and LCpl Sells

out for the penultimate (apologies to **Murray Walker**) RCZ/RAF(G) league meeting. The squad was up to such a size now that not only could we enter two teams but also loaned four pullers to another team. **Sgt Mick Kindness, Cpl Wally Walters** and **Sig Steve Shawcross** were determined to beat us in revenge for their apparent demotion, **Sig Buz Busby** declared that he would just like to pull for his own Regiment. We hoped he would have got the hint by now. This was another good day with more of the points lost early in the season regained.

Two days later a competition-wise, if now weary team arrived at RAF Laarbruch for the Open Competition and our first opportunity to meet some of the top teams in BAOR. 22 Air Defence Regt proved to be the team to beat as we took third place in the 560kg, where **LCpl Nige Back** found out what it was like to pull at number one, followed by runners-up in the 680kg.

Five days later found us at Höhne for the BAOR Finals where our first stroke of luck was when a team withdrew from the 560kg and allowed us to step up from the Plate to the main competition and much to our delight we achieved third place.

The omens were good as the 680kg team went next and having got through to the final met 22 Air Defence again, but this time it was our turn and as we won the three minute plus second and deciding the Regiment were BAOR 680kg Champions, we became the first non-Royal Artillery unit to win any BAOR tug-of-war title since 1976.

Too many heroes to mention but for those of you who think they could never do it, consider **Sig Rob Hamilton**. Spotted at the inter-Squadron tug-of-war, a complete novice, seven weeks and three competitions later he had an Open Competition runners-up medal, Divisional Champions and BAOR Champions medals.

The 640kg class was last but by now injuries were accumulating, **Cpl Bas Bastow** pulled bravely despite a crippling back injury and with six of the team having pulled in the 680kg immediately before, bodies were getting tired, but even so a fourth place was managed thus qualifying us for the Army Finals at all three weights.

A week later it was the last RCZ/RAF(G) league meeting, where in spite of winning on the day we failed to make up the points deficit from the beginning of the season. This fact however was sweetened by the award for the 'Most Improved Team'. A point of note here was that **Sig Buz Busby** actually pulled for his own lightweight team and swears it was because of him that they beat so many of the heavy teams. **LCpl Rich Hanley**, ever the diplomat, made the comment that with his weight on the rope the lightweight team was now a heavy one!

Three days later it was the Rhine Army Summer Show 680kg Invitation event, where as BAOR Champions a lot was expected of us. What no-one knew was that along with the absentees due to injuries we had changed our technique and were in the throes of learning a far more advanced style of pulling that was essential if we were to have any chance of success in future high quality competitions. Needless to say we did not do well and confidence was shaken.

The Army Finals were held at Larkhill on 14 July and although suffering from Ex Summer Sales we were not last by any means and reached the top four in the 640kg event, an achievement, that the Corps can be proud of on home-grown talent. A week later we were at the Royal Tournament in Earls Court competing in the Single Service 660kg Championship. After a hectic league and knockout stages we appeared at the evening performance on Saturday 23 July and delighted the audience with our open attacking style which saw us taking third place from the ten teams entered. A very proud moment for all concerned as we received our medals and a determination to come back and win next year. Thanks here to the Royal Signals Junior Leaders, who provided the Royal Tournament arena party, their enthusiasm and support for us was great to see. I only hope it didn't land them in trouble with the management!

Next was a spot of leave which amused the non-pullers back in Herford; as far as they were concerned we had just been on holiday, then it was back to training for two weeks in preparation for our last big outdoor competition, the Braemar Highland Games Services 680kg Invitation.

Resumption of training produced near panic in the coach **WO2 (SSM) Pete Halstead** as one by one the 680kg team reported with injuries. It became clear that we had major problems and with no intention of withdrawing from the competition a plea for help went out to 22 Sig Regt who very kindly agreed to loan us **Cpl Tom Fraser** (an ex 4 ADSR puller) and **LCpl Geordie Legg**. Lady Fortune in the shape of M&RO then smiled kindly upon us as **LCpl Ed Hudson** was actually posted to us from 22 Sig Regt.

Saturday 3 September saw a somewhat different 4 ADSR team stepping onto the scales to weigh in at a light 664kg. Representing the Corps on the day were **Sig Jock Reid, Cpls Tom Fraser, 'Bass' Bastow, Sig 'Jonah' Jones, LCpl Ed Hudson, Lcpl 'Geordie' Legg, Sig Rob Hamilton** and **Cpl Pat Murphy.**

At the Braemar Gathering

For those who know nothing about Braemar a few words of explanation. The Braemar Gathering is organised by The Braemar Royal Highland Society which has as its patron **Her Majesty The Queen**. The Gathering is always held when the Royal Family is at Balmoral so that they may attend and the major winners may receive their awards from **Her Majesty The Queen.**

There are two events where the Services appear, the Medley Relay and the Tug-of-War. The finals of both are performed in the presence of **Her Majesty The Queen** and the winning captain/coach receives the trophy from her.

Entry is by invitation only so it is an honour to appear, to do well in the tug-of-war is regarded by many as more prestigious than the Army Championships.

Therefore when the team qualified for the semi-finals and beat one of the favourites in the shape of 19 Fd Regt RA it was an extremely proud group that marched on for the final. Unfortunately it was not to be and after a very close competition 40 Fd Regt RA were the winners but for the first time that anyone can remember a Royal Signals team took part and very nearly stole the show.

This was perhaps the first representative Corps tug-of-war team; with the first Inter Corps championships proposed for either 1989 or 1990, it is hoped that all units will encourage this 'genuine' sport and forward some names of those who show promise and enthusiasm.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Gordon Rafferty**
2IC	**Capt Donald Macaulay**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead**
OC C Tp	**SSgt Charlie Dubique**
OC J Tp	**Lt Bob Rushton RA Signals**
	SSgt Stew Campbell
OC R Tp	**Lt Andrew Smith**
OC P Tp	**SSgt Chappie Tunks**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Bob Thomas**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Mike Purves**
SQMS	**SSgt Fred Cottington**

ALL CHANGE

There has recently been a great upheaval in the Squadron hierachy. **Maj Ian Griffiths** left for Blandford to be replaced by **Maj Gordon Rafferty**. The new OC was somewhat surprised to find that within a week of arrival he had lost three of the four Troop Commanders: **Lt Phil Davies** left for marriage and his CCEC and **2Lt Paul Bosher** left for marriage and the RMCS Shrivenham. **Lt Paul Vingoe** left for Ex Long Look to Australia to be replaced by **Lt Bob Rushton** RA Signals. This only left **2Lt Jon Cole** who had the courtesy to wait for the OCs first exercise to end before rushing off to jump out of aircraft in 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn. The egress was only stemmed by **Lt Andrew Smith** joining the Squadron. The Squadron wishes all those who have so recently left the very best in their new tours.

EXERCISE GOLDEN CROWN

The Squadron deployed to support 11 Armd Bde in their warm up exercise for participation in the 1 Belgian Corps annual FTX. The entire Squadron was slight 'overkill' for the task, but it did allow us to blow away any cobwebs that may have gathered since Ex Summer Sales. Additionally it allowed the new OC to see us in the field.

To be fair the exercise was a new experience in many ways, it was away from our normal stomping grounds hence the intrepid OSC team **FofS Bob Thomas, YofS Mike Purves** and **Sgt Dave Shaw** often had to plan LIDs without the benefit of the trusty Husky—'where did all those RPC Aide Memoire go!'. Also getting frequencies for the Belgian Corps CARRFA equivalent proved interesting with its mixture of English, Flemish, French, German and Scottish!; it still worked.

As it was a **2Lt Jon Coles** swansong, his Trunk Node (OSC) had the privilege of playing 'chase 11 Brigade'. Ably assisted by **SSgts Mal Hopper** and **Charlie Dubique** he gallantly dared to go where no Trunk Node had gone before and stayed close to the Brigade Headquarters. His Recce Sergeant: **Sgt Kev Jenkins** got a little too close when a Belgian vehicle decided to re-arrange his recce rover (not his fault), but thats another story.

Lt Bob Rushton, our tame Aussie having got the hang of Ptarmigan by working on all the dets then found himself attached to 11 Brigade as a watchkeeper. This did not last long, and he soon found himself despatched to act as a liaison officer to a Belgian Mechanised Infantry Battalion. This involved him relaying messages for a dawn attack, and even calling down Artillery Fire Missions for the Battalion. Rumour control has it that Australian Voice Procedure is 'slightly' different from ours!

Not to be outdone **SSgt Stew Campbell**, commanding Jaguar Tp, on the advice of **Lt Rushton**, was moved back to accommodate a tactical re-alignment, only to set up and be told, move again, forward this time, as the enemy had been held.

Trunk Note 064 had the pleasure of having the OSC throughout the exercise. **Sgt Bill McCann** was so organised that he arranged for a Squadron Football match against the Thulen Altmannsclaf. He also arranged for us diplomatically to lose 1—3. While all this was going on 044 under **SSgt 'Chappie' Tunks** and **Martin Davis** arranged to be beaten by Belgian Air Defence Troops at Volleyball.

Being such a long exercise, many important events occurred, not least the Birthdays of **Sig Andy Smith** (20), **Sig Gaz Fryer** (18). **Sig Fryer** on an outlying detachment received a Birthday cake and cards delivered to his hilltop by the OC and **Sgt McCann**, but also no hair of the dog.

The Squadron now eagerly await the next major exercise, Ex Iron Hammer.

1 SQUADRON
SUMMER CAMP

On a bright sunny day in late July, 45 members of the Squadron, some volunteers and some 'volunteers', left Hammersmith Barracks for 10 days of adventure training in Bavaria. The following letter was received by the censors:-

'Dear Mum,

I write to you from the top of a mountain—the Breitenberg—about 1,812m or 5,500ft up! My OC Tp **2Lt Jon Cole** has a strange compulsion to conquer these peaks and insists on taking some of us with him. We have climbed, crawled and staggered up four mountains in as many days; my mates, **Sig 'Choccy' Clare** and **Boath** appear to be suffering from the same curious delusion that this 'JIF' is good fun. Yesterday's ascent of the Kuhgundkorf (1,852m) was a doddle compared with the descent along an 800m-long knife edge. It was very reassuring to see **Lt Phil Davies** was also gritting his teeth on the more hairy sections.

We knew something was wrong on our first briefing: **Sgt** 'We'll take it steady lads' **Talbot** told us how much we would enjoy Trekking! My group certainly missed the assistance of a T-bar on the way to the top of the Nesselwang ski-run on our first day.

The next two days were spent canoeing and top roping/abseiling. **SSgt Ian Selkirk** gave us the benefit of his experience and sense of humour both on the lake and later in the river near Sonthofen. **Capt Donald Macaulay** (Chief yellowcoat for the 'ex'cursion) seemed determined to provide the entertainment by regular bouts of unsyncronised swimming; 'Sir, the idea is to keep paddling, keep paddling, keep paddling!' **Cpl Tez McBride** and **LCpl Stew Garrett** showed us how to 'follow the Bear' up the cliff faces, and **LCpl 'Abbo' Darbyshire** showed us to hold on to twigs, grass, in fact almost anything when assuming the abseil position.

Several of us spent our first R & R day skiing in Austria. Well before any sparrows had considered . . . we set off for the Kaunertal Glacier under the guidance of **Sgt Bill McCann** and **Cpl Garreth Pope**. At 2750m there is snow throughout the year. While most of us stuck to the conventional piste work, **Cpl Taff Childs** demonstrated the 'headbutting the ski' trick with technicolour results!

In just ten days I have trekked, climbed and canoed over the best parts of the Allgau and done a bit of skiing, swimming and bronzing as well, I'm still not sure if the Sqn 2IC was kidding by calling this an Exercise!

Your loving son,
(name deleted to protect the innocent)

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Mike Dent MBE**
2IC	**Capt Nick Borrill**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Brian Howe**
OC A1 Tp	**Lt Alistair Ross**
OC A3 Tp	**SSgt Kev Nicholls**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Ian Selkirk**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Pete Stoddart**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Mick Minton**
MT	**Sgt Kev Enfield/Sgt John McGowan RCT**

INTRODUCTION

With Ex Summer Sales only a fading memory July, August and September were to be 'quiet' months—Ha Ha! Tels PRE, Stocktaking Boards, CCF Camp, canoeing in Norway, Battle Camp, Ex Golden Crown and last but not least the Squadron adventure training period in Bavaria, not bad for the leave period! Despite all the commitments the majority have managed to get some time off at home or on holiday.

SHQ

Whilst the OC languished in sunny Italy the 2IC **Capt Nick 'Ishmael' Borrill** ran the Squadron in his inimitable style maintaining his usual tight control over the Squadron Fund. On the OC's return the 2IC disappeared 'down under' for a three week rest cure and while he was away all his 'shekels' were given away by the OC. On returning and finding all his hard gained cash given away he handed over the account to the new OC A1 Tp, **Lt Alistair Ross**, and 'disappeared' to Warminster for three months.

WO2 (SSM) Brian Howe's departure on leave meant R and R for the Squadron but Battle Camp brough back some semblance of reality. The SQMS, **SSgt Ian 'Hopalong' Selkirk**, now out of hospital after breaking an ankle in a 'long jump' demonstration decided that Norway would be better than Germany and took six members of the Squadron away canoeing. Hopefully he will be fully fit to take part in his 'free fall' parachute course next month!

The YofS, **SSgt Pete Stoddart** and FofS, **SSgt Mick Minton**, are now part of the 2IC's Ops team. Whilst this has improved communications the appearance of the Foreman's bike in SHQ has not gone unnoticed by the SSM. Our MT Section of **Sgts John McGowan, Kev 'NBC' Enfield** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Stobbs** continue to wreak havoc directing **Sig Billy Baker** and **'Wrecker' Broadwell**.

In the cellars **LCpl 'Red' Fielding, Sig Mick Concepcion** and **'Robbo' Robson** beaver away making sure that the 'Q's trophies are kept clean whilst **'Hopalong'** or should it now be **'Sticks' Selkirk** rests his leg.

BATTLE CAMP

This year's Squadron Battle Camp took place at the ATA Haltern during the period 20-26 August. A full and concentrated training programme devised by the 2IC, SSM and YofS included platoon and section tactics and specialised and general military skills. Subjects covered included prisoner handling techniques, recognition training, bayonet drill, surveillance devices, NBC and map reading as well as 'live' section attacks, APC drills and grenade training. Range work included section defence shoots by night and day, SMG pairs and the 66mm LAW sub-calibre.

No 2 Section—Winners of the Stretcher Race

The first phase started early on 20 August and ran through until the early hours of 22 August. A1 and A3 Tps deployed as two infantry platoons each of three sections. Each platoon was given a number of tasks including night navigation, patrolling and defence culminating in platoon attacks.

The second phase comprised practical instruction and range work during which sections and individuals were assessed with points counting towards an individual and section competition. The final 'test' was an inter-section stretcher race won by No 2 section (**Cpl Ian Lawton, LCpls Nick Collins, 'Bootneck' Cairns, Sig Colin Barker, Mick Breydin, 'Chippy' Chipperfield, Mac McArdle** and **'Wrecker' Broadwell**).

The overall winners of the inter section competition was No 3 section: **Cpl 'Shed' Witty, LCpls 'Steptoe' Steel, 'Mac' McLaughlin, Pete Ross, Sig 'JC' Cartmell, 'Hammy' Hamilton, Punchy Parker** and **'Cheesy' Chivers**. The best individual soldier award being presented to **Sig 'Mac' McArdle**. Special thanks go to the DS and **2Lt Pete Cubbin** for the excellent night recce of the bathing area!

A1 TROOP

The highlight of the last month was the Squadron Battle Camp!

HALTERN TRAINING AREA

On Saturday 20 August out of the woods on their way to their first location came No 1 platoon led by their illustrious OC **2Lt Pete Cubbin**. Diggin-in was the order given so into the ground they went. Enemy 'Spetznaz' were seen to be watching us and a recce patrol was sent out. Now compromised we expected an attack, and so eventually it came and we tactically 'ran away'. Orders were issued from Company Headquarters over the net and so the legendary 'Death March' was repeated. Through sand the platoon was force marched in full CEFO to the ECL.

The next day it was our turn to try and turn the tables. The OC decided he would lead a recce patrol and so off they went in search of glory. An hour passed and **LCpl 'Bootneck'** (formerly 'No Comms') **Cairns** returned to inform the platoon Sergeant, **Sgt Steve Talbot**, that he was now in command as our illustrious leader had been captured along with three other members of the patrol. But luck was not with us, he was released a few hours later in order to plan the night attack.

Cpl Rathmell (1 Section)

The attack went in as planned with the platoon in extended line, flares going off everywhere reminded us what it must have been like in an advance over 'no mans land' during WW1. Everything was fine until **Sig Fawcett** of No 2 platoon, who was close by, fired a shot and the two platoons, who were, incidentally, on the same side ended up locked in combat, unfortunately, with each other. Luckily the enemy was not around to witness the spectacle.

Despite our minor accident the remainder of the week went very well and a lot of valuable experience was gained.

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

Despite being invited to remain in the Regiment for a further period our OC, **2Lt Pete Cubbin** departed for sunny Shrivenham; we wish him all the best. We welcome from Shrivenham **Lt Alistair Ross** who has taken over his predecessor's mantle. We also say farewell to **Sgt Billy Parker** who moves to RHQ and welcome **Sgt Dave Mason** from A3 Tp who takes over as acting Troop SSgt. Finally we say farewell to our four techs, **Cpl 'Shed' Witty, LCpls Pete Ross** and **Alan Murrell** (newly arrived from 211 Sig Sqn) and **LCpl 'JC' Cartmell** who move into SHQ to be under control of the FofS, never mind eh!

A3 TROOP

The excitement of Battle Camp has been recounted elsewhere, we can only 'confirm' the rumours that **LCpl 'Nelson' Schneider** again failed to complete a Squadron Battle Camp are true. Nice one **Steve**!

Our return to Herford brought some surprises especially for the Troop OC, **Lt Simon 'TA' Gregory**, who found out on one Wednesday night that he was due to report to RMA Sandhurst by Friday midday! Nice one Adjt! Nevertheless he managed to get lunched out by the officers and SNCO's and an informal farewell from the Troop. **Lt Gregory** joined us in January for a year's attachment from the TA. He liked it so much that he decided to make the Army his career. We wish him the very best of luck at Sandhurst and thank him for all his hard work and his understanding and enthusiasm. Just remember, **Mr Gregory**, what the Squadron OC says—'If you can't take a joke you shouldn't have joined!'. We have a Fig 11 target in the office whilst **SSgt Nicholls** takes the chair for a few months before a replacement OC arrives.

We also say farewell to **Sgt Dave Mason** who moves across to sort out A1 Tp and to **Cpl Ian Patterson** who joins the other Squadron techs in the Foreman's empire in SHQ.

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Alan Jones**
2IC	**Capt Barry Williams**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) John Dent**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dave Brogden RA Signals**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt Hugh Allison**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) 'Chippy' Wood**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Iain Blacklaw**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Rab Farquharson RCT**
SHQ Sgt	**Sgt Mike Kindness**

The Squadron welcomes **Capt Barry** and **Mrs Sheila Williams. Capt Williams** used to be the Regimental Families Officer and OC PRI. We hope he will prove more generous with Squadron Funds than he was with PRI Funds. Farewells are in order to **Sgt Rab** and wife **Angela Farquharson** (have I spelt it right?) who is posted on promotion.

ALPHA 2 TROOP

OC	**2Lt Graham Addley**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt George Davison**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Geoff Hawkins**

A2 Troop—3 Squadron
The troop was short of men for Ex Summer Sales! WO2 (SSM) John Dent suggests that 2Lt Graham Addley sorts out his dressing

2Lt **Graham Addley** has finally taken the reins of A2 Tp after his long apprenticeship, but no sooner had he done so then he was off to Bavaria for a well earned rest from sailing. He replaces **Capt Jim Wood** who finished his tour in Germany by visiting ten countries in twenty-four hours as well as taking in the Belgian Grand Prix Circuit for good measure.

The Troop also says farewell to **LCpl Sean Humphries** and also **Sgt 'Herbie' Herbert** who leaves his wife in Herford while he goes to do battle with the YofS course at Blandford. We wish him well in his struggles. The Troop welcomes two new faces belonging to **Sig Dickenson** and **Sig Cox. Sgt Bullock** also joins the Troop after a stint with B Troop where he could not stand the pace.

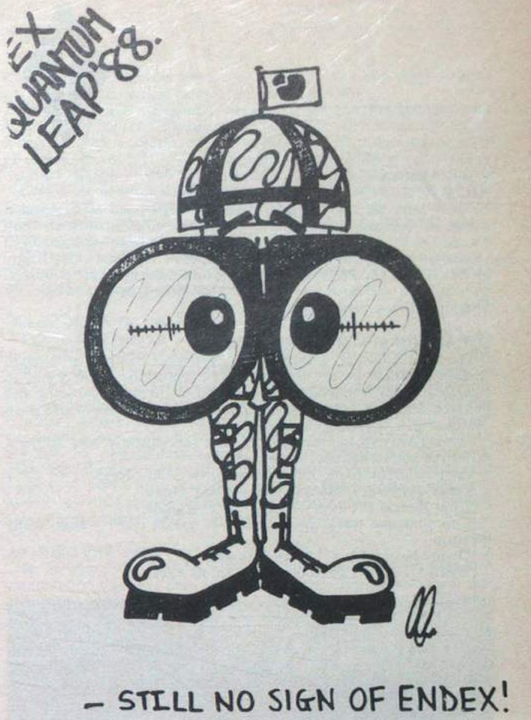
BRAVO TROOP

OC	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
2IC	**2Lt Paul King**
Tp Ssgt	**SSgt John Brooks**

The 'funny' exercise season is here again and B Tp with elements A2 and Line Tp were involved in the non-tactical Ex Quantum Leap. This was totally static as was noted by **Sgt Ridington** the chief chef who complained that people were eating too much. Under the guidance of **SQMS Iain Blacklaw**, who stripped to the waist to display his fine physique, a small village of 12x12 tents was erected to house the exercise personnel. As if to remind us mortals of our vulnerability it rained heavily one night on our splendid village which prompted the following cartoon.

As the exercise was not very demanding, the opportunity was taken by some to improve personal skills. **LCpl Andy Greenwood** perfected his casting technique with the aid of a para cord, safety pin and whip antenna at the nearby trout pond. Needless to say the 'one that got away' tales were all that he had to show. **Cpl Gaz Pickford** displayed his tree climbing abilities as his spagetti of power cable reached every corner of the location. **Dvr 'Toothy' Nobbs** and follower of fashion **Dvr Mickey Bott** in this seasons favourite colours of irridescent yellow tracksters and complementing fluorescent pink top, turned their combined talents to running the exercise Globe cinema and tuckshop. **SSM** 'stick that chest out!' **Brooks** (just back from his Drill Course) brought a bit of Pirbright back with him as he took the morning broom parade on the car park. The course seems not to have affected **SSgt Hugh Allison**.

The Troop welcomes **Sig** 'BFT' **Brigdale** and says goodbye to **Sgt Stu** and **Sue Morrin** who go down to 200 Sig Sqn.



LINE TROOP

OC	**Sgt Pete Duffy**

A busy season for Line Tp, with participation in several exercises. Even though undermanned (violins in the background) the Troop still managed to pull through.

We should like to welcome back **LCpl George Window** also **Sig Kenny McNeil**. New faces include **Sig Whitehead**, straight from the 'factory'.

Our heartiest congratulations go to **Sig 'Geordie' Bilcliffe, Sig 'Bebo' Shawcross** and **Sig Compton** who have all been promoted to Lance Corporal. Also **LCpl Hope's** rare talents have finally been recognised and he has just been made up to full Corporal.

Fond farewells and good luck to **Cpl Fulton** posted to 2 Div Sig Regt and **LCpl Mulley** to 28 Sig Regt. At long last, the stork visited **Sig Busby** and wife **Gabby** leaving them a baby son; **Busby Jnr** has his fathers looks—let's hope that he has his mother's brain. Finally after three hard working years **Sig 'Morph' Marshall** leaves the Army, we wish him all the best.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

1 SQUADRON
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

There have been so many arrivals and departures of late that it would be impossible to name them all. Nevertheless we wish 'Bon Voyage' to those recently departed and welcome our new arrivals. In particular we wish our OC **Maj Miles Stockdale** and **Jane** a very happy tour in JCUFI and Rheindahlen. By the time these notes are published we will have welcomed our new OC **Maj Mike Gilyeat** and his wife **Vicky**. We hope they enjoy their stay.

SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP

The Squadron spent a fortnight in September enjoying a Bavarian 'Indian Summer' at the Regimental Adventurous Training hut in Nesselwang. Each individual participated in climbing, canoeing and trekking activities before choosing one activity he would prefer to continue at a higher standard.

The majority of the participants have subsequently been telling a variety of somewhat dubious war stories:-

'As I rolled over this 30ft stopper wave'—**Sig Clegg**;
'I was awake at 0600 hrs'—**SSM Micky Dunn**.
'I par three'd the 16th'—**Maj Miles Stockdale**.
'Can someone teach me the rules of shock dice?'—**SSgt Wally Westrop**.
'Drive? No problem'—**LCpl Douglas**.
'When I . . .'—**Cpl Roberts** and **LCpls Hicks**.

Maj Miles Stockdale negotiates the crux of a tricky rock climb. The photo is equally convincing when turned through 90 degrees

WO2 (SSM) Micky Dunn enjoys the intense activity

THE FUTURE

The Squadron will be moving to Soltau in October for our annual Military Training and Battle Camp which is structured to bone our skills prior to providing support to the International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School in November.

The arrival and departure of OCs and COs has provided dress rehearsals for the forthcoming Christmas functions. Our stamina has been tested and we 'appear to be' recovering well.

4 SQUADRON

'Wire notes by the end of the week please!. How often does that phrase brighten an otherwise dull day—especially when its a Thursday!

The Squadron has had a particularly active period since the end of Block Leave. It began with the changeover of OCs. **Maj Joe Moreland** moved to RHQ to become the Regiment 2IC and handed over to **Maj Derek Robertson**, who accompanied by his wife **Steph** has just arrived from Canada. A belated welcome to them both.

Since then the Squadron has fitted in two weeks at the Regiment's adventure training hut in Bavaria. It was here that the team 'Disco Leg' was adopted by the lads to describe the effect of balancing on a knife ridge with sheer mountain drops on either side! **Cpl 'Jock' Hardle** and **2Lt Simon 'Shaky' Roberts** gave particularly fine demonstrations of the wobble involved!

The Squadron also hosted a contingent from the Yorkshire ACF, and **SSgt Mick Palmer** did a fine job as their father figure keeping the Regiment's name out of the tabloids. We hope they enjoyed their stay.

We also managed to fit in a quick Site Guard; and after a week's training at Rheinsehlen Camp we had a successful week at Munster Nord AS. Beyond the glamour of the Olympics, another world record was shattered when the video of Star Trek IV was seen over 20 times in the space of seven days! Rumour has it that **SSgt Pete Lavers** could turn the sound down and recite the script by heart.

The Squadron has just completed organising the prestigious Bismarck Relay cross country event. The most notable achievement (apart from the Regiment's third place) was **Cpl 'Big Mac' MacEwan**'s profit from his bratwurst stall. Especially when they were free from the tent next door! Still; we didn't hear the Squadron 2IC complaining!

We bid farewell to **Sgts Pete Laycock, Les Deeming** and his wife **Irene**, and also to **Sig 'Spanner' Wrench**. We welcome **SSgt Bob Hay** and his wife **Linda**, and **Sgt Mick Alcock**. In the words of us Site Guarders . . . 'Stag On'! We hope you enjoy your tours.

Cpl 'Jonah' Jones and Sig 'Where did you get that hat?' Phillips watch LCpl Micky Jose performing another indian rope trick

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

HANDOVER OF COMMAND

On 29 July 9 Sig Regt said farewell to **Lt Col Gareth Mann** who had commanded the Regiment since 1986.

He was dined out in style by both the Officers' and WO's and Sergeants' Mess who had designed and produced their novel version of a Staff car especially for the occasion.

Whilst commanding the Regiment **Lt Col Mann** had become quite a proficient waterskier, and was often seen at Ayios Trias beach performing his waterskiing feats—but none were quite up to the style he showed when he water skied on dry land out of the camp on his final day of command!

Lt Col Mann handed over command of the Regiment on 29 July 1988 to **Lt Col Jim Evans** before taking a holiday with his family in Cyprus.

Lt Col Jim Evans has come from BAOR. He is joined by his wife, **Frances**, who after only a few days in Cyprus has already impressed us by completing the Dhekelia one mile swim, and dived into the murky waters beneath Dhekelia jetty in diving kit.

We all wish **Lt Col** and **Mrs Mann** the very best of luck in their tour at MOD London, and warmly welcome **Lt Col** and **Mrs Evans** to Cyprus and hope their tour here will be a very happy one.

L to R: Lt Cols Mann and Evans

THE TICKLE AWARD FOR UNIT EFFICIENCY GOES TO 9 SIG REGT

The late **Mr A. J. B. Tickle**, who served in the British Army in both World Wars, donated a substantial sum of money to provide for prizes for the promotion of efficiency in the Army.

The 1988 Cyprus Tickle Efficiency Award has been won by 9 Sig Regt. The following is an extract from the unit citation.

The Regiment has a large civilian staff: many of the locally employed civilians of Turkish and Greek nationality have served with the Regiment since it formed in 1948. As with many isolated communities much is done within the Regiment to foster a family spirit with each member being encouraged in a wide range of sport and extra-mural activities.

With little public money available the Regiment does much by self help—for example some civilian staff run a small market garden during their own time producing flowers and shrubs to enhance the environmental aspect of the barracks and married quarters—a golf course has been built and is maintained by members and their families at their own expense. Similarly the Regiment runs an active Saddle Club and the extensive rebuild of Offices and paddocks has been undertaken and completed by members of the club.

During April the Regiment organised and ran the International Motor Show for the fifth successive year. The show is acknowledged as an outstanding achievement in the PR/CR field and raised in excess of £3,000 for charity. A similar dynamic effort by the wives raised in excess of £2,000 for the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal.

Despite its location, the Regiment continues to take many of the top honours in Cyprus sport. The Regimental Tennis team won six of the seven competitions in the Army Championships; with much being done to encourage young players to improve.

Over the past year, the Regiment has done much to improve efficiency. This achievement is now officially recognised by the award of the trophy and cheque for £120.

CBFC DROPS IN ON THE REGIMENT

Friday 23 September was indeed an auspicious day. Not only were we officially presented with the Tickle Trophy for unit efficiency but CBFC paid us a visit. Ay Nik is more or less a garrison within a garrison so we were keen that the Commander should visit the more obscure areas of the Regiment and of course we had to justify our efficiency award. These are exciting times at Ayios Nikolaos; major construction work is underway and by the end of 1989 we should have the keys to: new soldiers barrack accommodation, new Sergeants' Mess accommodation, and other places, not to mention the numerous amount of minor project work to be done. The drawback of course is that currently the whole barracks area resembles a large building site—the proverbial RSM's nightmare.

AY NIK FETE 1988

In February of this year the CO summoned his three squadron commanders and gave the strangest of instructions. He told them that they were to parade at 0800 hrs the following morning in CEFO at the start of the assault course. He expected them to move to the end of the course taking in all the obstacles including the 10ft wall. He pointed out that as squadron commanders they should set the right example to their men and put in a good performance. The current record was established by a 25-year old candidate who achieved the incredible time of 2½ minutes—mind you in PT kit. As the three Majors were in battle order he didn't expect them to challenge the record but nonetheless best effort was expected. The three majors were totally alarmed by the request and unanimously agreed that there would certainly be a record established that coming morning. It was the slowest time recorded yet!

At 0755 hrs the following day they duly paraded on the start line, their large packs filled with items of the finest cuisine. 0800 hrs heralded the arrival of the CO. He stopped to the rear of the three who were poised on the start line, slightly inclined his head in their direction and said 'Ready! Steady!—who fancies taking on this years summer fete?'. There then passed approximately a hundreth of a second before the air was thick with dust and the smell of burnt rubber prevailed. Walls, ditches, rope swings were treated with utter contempt then came the final obstacle—the scramble net. Indeed a new record was established, but in every race there has to be a loser and the Fate of organising the Fete fell to **Maj Harcourt-Richards**.

Well, of course, it never quite happened like that, but it does emphasise the feelings one attaches to organising functions of such magnitude. With the olympics still fresh in our minds it would be true to say that if there was a fete-running competition in the games then in the words of the tv pundits **Maj Harcourt-Richards** would be in 'the hunt for the medals'.

A fine display of inventiveness for the kiddies fancy dress

All the hard work and effort put in over the months preceding the day bore fruit and it turned out to be a resounding success. An estimated 2,000 people attended on the day and were rewarded with an array of delightful stalls and much entertainment and imagination in the central arena. The fifes and drums of the 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards started off the event with their sparkling routine; world record attempts; tug-of-war; dog displays; and much more maintaining the excitement throughout the afternoon. The side displays included fun rides courtesy of Auscon; 62 Support Sqn RE; and of course BFBS were there to add their usual support. Over £3,000 was taken during the course of the day and after the bills have been paid a tidy sum will find its way to deserving causes. Many thanks to all who gave their time in the running of the show and thanks to those who came and supported it. See you all again next year!

Full steam ahead for Cpl Clare of MT Tp—the train was more popular by the parents than the children

1 Sqn cleared up in the gladiator event above shows the Superteams champions and below the tug-of-war winners

CHILDRENS' SUMMER ACTIVITIES

August saw the end of a hectic but rewarding experience for the staff from Training Wing. Earlier this year **Lt John Aspinall** (OC Trg Wing) was tasked with organising activities for the children during the school summer holidays. After much soul searching, hair pulling and late night cups of tea, a five week programme was published showing all the activities available to the children. The task of chasing, threatening and consoling the children whose ages varied from seven to sixteen, was given to our SSV, **Miss Sarah Hyde**, who is a student at Liverpool University. Having sat down and sifted through the returns, she then took great delight in informing the staff that the daily figures for attendance ranged from 62 to 107! Picking themselves up off the floor everyone threw themselves wholeheartedly into the project. Assistants were gathered from all corners of the Regiment and briefed on what to expect!

The first day 98 children poured off the coaches into the gymnasium where an apprehensive but eager PT staff waited. By 1300 hrs a happy and exhausted band of children crawled back on to the coaches for the homeward journey, dreaming about all the exciting games they had played. Success was the keyword for the day and was to prove so for the next five weeks. The next two weeks flew past, during which the children participated in art/craft classes, basketball, netball, archery, .22 shooting, swimming, table tennis, squash, trampolining, cycle proficiency and cinema shows.

On the third week a beach camp was held at Evdhimou. This proved to be both exhilarating and tiring for the children. Activities included water skiing, snorkelling, windsurfing, canoeing, LSL trip, various visits to areas of interest, beach games, abseiling, trim trail, treasure trail and ended with a barbecue and disco, during which **Cpl 'Rapper' Smith** proved that AIPTs not only move in the gym but when it comes to Disc Jockeying, are 'Top of the Pops'. The week was also notable for the rescue from drowning of a local Cypriot by various members of the staff.

The first day of the fourth week saw a drop in attendance, due to the activities starting at 0900 hrs and the children not rising until about 1130 hrs. However, football, softball, art/craft classes and cinema show on the next day saw a resumption to normal numbers. The week continued at a hectic pace with the children creating their own happy mayhem. Sadly during the last week we had to say goodbye to **Sarah** (SSV) as she left sunny Cyprus for overcast England. In appreciation of her enthusiasm and hard work, the Regiment presented her with an engraved plaque. The Training Wing also presented her with a Regimental print and a framed photograph, suitably engraved, showing her 'hard at work'. The final day arrived and the activities ended with a disco held in the 'Elephant and Castle'.

At 1300 hrs the children climbed aboard the coaches for the last time happy and contented having not just taken part in activities but also making lots of new friends in the process.

To thank everyone who helped would take up more space than we have, but special mention must go to the wives who provided escort and assistance during the five weeks, especially **Mrs McConnon**, **Mrs Hacking** and **Mrs Turner**. Also special mention to 33 SU RAF Police Section who ran the cycling proficiency for us.

CYPRUS ALL ISLAND HORSE SHOW

The Autumn All Island Horse Show took place at Ayios Nikolaos on 23, 24 and 25 September, hosted by Famagusta Saddle Club.

The show was attended by the largest entry for some time with 78 riders entering the Dressage. Additionally, 40 riders braved the risks of entering as combined competitors.

The Dressage standards were extremely high and we were most fortunate to have the expert assistance of **Mary Barras** and **Floss Hodgkinson** from UK who managed with great skill the selection of the winners. We are extremely grateful to the Mollina Company for their generous sponsorship of the Dressage event.

Saturday saw the riders up early for the start of the local sponsored cross country. on a superb course designed by **Cpl John Bailey** and prepared by 62 Cyprus Support Sqn RE, the times were expected to be particularly fast. The cross country is noted as being the toughest event, hard on the horses and the riders. The fences are solid and don't fall when hit (**Jenny Revell** disproved this theory when Sultan demolished Bailey's Choice early in the competition). The Senior Intermediates were first away and a very dynamic ride by **Cpl John Berry** on Last Rain proved unbeatable. The overnight leader **Sally Kaye** riding Aslan had an unfortunate start and although her course penalties were the lowest of the class, she was unable to catch up on the time lost.

Next away were the Senior Novices with **Mrs Foster** having an excellent clear round on Fager with **Maureen Millington-Brodie** on Elhos a very close second. This result put the ladies in an excellent position in the Combined.

Excellent rides by **Mark Whelan** and **Tom Raybold**, both of Episkopi Saddle Club, clinched victories in their class. Episkopi were so well in form that five of the six cross country winners came from their club. A superb achievement.

Next came the Procopiou sponsored show jumping. **Mary** and **Floss** had designed a testing course that required careful thought. A brilliant start by **Kim Taylor** riding the veteran Tamarin, soundly beating the field in the jump off for the Junior Novice Trophy. Another stalwart Ceasefire of Dhekelia produced a fine ride by **Rachel Sullivan** and **Rebecca Chivers**. The Senior Novices was very closely fought, **Mrs Foster** riding Fager, anxious to clinch the combined trophy as well, proved too strong for **Maj Brown** riding Elhos by a narrow margin of two seconds. A fine ride by **Maj Tracy** on Libra took the Intermediate Trophy on yet another exciting jump off.

The Open Class were faced with maximum heights and maximum spreads with **Chris Warden** riding Just George VI showing their class and taking a well earned victory.

Many congratulations to Famagusta Saddle Club for providing such an excellent show and for having their best ever team performance.

Sincere thanks go to our very generous sponsors who made the event possible.

ADIEU TO OC 1 SQUADRON
ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

On 15 July we bade a sad farewell to **Maj P. Robertshaw** and his wife **Carol**. The occasion was marked by dining them out from the Sergeants' Mess. We wish them both well in the somewhat colder climate of Scotland. A special ode was commissioned for the occasion:

ODE TO A RARE BIRD!
Observed in some strange places,
With habits quite bizarre,
It's often found on foot or bike,
But rarely in a car.

It strides across the mountain-sides
Or runs, but never stops;
And gets really quite aggressive
If it finds that it's not tops!

It doesn't come from Cyprus
Or even far Japan—
It's the lesser-crested, brown coated,
Turbo-driven man!

1988 INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Grudge event took place in July, and once again we fielded our best team to overcome the 3 Sqn challenge. Things did not go quite to plan and even with three good wins from **Cpl Jenx Jenkins** (4 × 50m), **Sgt Gaz Bateman** (100 breast) and the 6 × 50 relay team, once again we were pipped to the post by only one point.

However, the waterpolo was quite the reverse, with outstanding performances from **Cpl Jenx Jenkins** and **SSgt Joe Letts**, we wiped the floor with the two contenders—a forgone conclusion.

And finally we must not forget to mention the only goal we conceded in the competition, an own goal by our keeper, **Cpl Shed Stamford**.

2 SQUADRON
'PARANG'—NEW MANAGEMENT

Maj Helm OC 2 Sqn recently took over as OIC 'Parang' from **Maj Gryspeerdt** with **WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse** acting as 2IC, the botswain **Cpl Caderius Van Veen** remains the same. **Maj Helm**, a non sailor before the change around, went off to Gosport to learn the ropes and qualified as a Day Skipper before returning.

L to R: Cpl Caderius Van Veen (Bosun), Maj Helm (OIC 'Parang') and WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse (2IC 'Parang')

EXERCISE FLOATING LION 1

Now that we have the OC Sqn qualified for sailing, the most obvious thing to do was to get him out sailing, hence the 2 Sqn sailing week called Ex Floating Lion 1.

Organised by the SSM the crew list looked like this: Skipper—**Cpl Caderius Van Veen**, Watch Leaders—**Maj Helm, WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse**, Crew—**Cpl Stokes, LCpl Willerton, Sig Kerry-Jones** and **Runciman**.

The exercise lasted for seven days, starting in Larnaca and sailing around Cyprus and as far as Lachi stopping off at Limmasol and Paphos. The sailing was good with a fair amount of wind all week.

DELTA TROOP TAKES TO THE SKY

SSgt Cas Hayes managed to persuade the OC of 16 Flt AAC to give the Troop a birds eye view of Cyprus by giving the Troop members a helicopter joy ride, or so they thought! The pilot **WO2 (SSM) Ray Turner** had different ideas. He practised engine failure and the crew practised heart failure. A good day out was had by all particularly when everyone's feet were squarely on the floor of 'Cockpit Club' for refreshments and stories of what the crew saw when flying over Nissi Beach.

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2 SQUADRON GSM PRESENTATION

Recipients: **Cpl Newell, LCpls Brown, Wright, Farmer, Moffat, Garner, Sig Fox, Shepherd, Williams, Hollamby, Livingstone** and **Crockett**.

2 Sqn held a medal presentation to members who have recently been awarded the GSM; well done to them all.

2 Squadron Recent Sporting Successes
C Troop Inter Troop Football Champions: Cpl Newell holds the trophy after the presentation in the sports and social club

SSgt Paul Yeoman receives the ESBA Squash League Runners-Up Trophy for the 2 Sqn team

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

BRITISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED WHEELCHAIR MARATHON

The BSAD Wheelchair Marathon was run at RAF Catterick on Sunday 4 September. It is a sponsored race with the proceeds going to the British Sports Association for the Disabled. The race is over 26.4 miles, split into twelve laps of a 2.2 mile circuit with each team consisting of three pushers plus one disabled sitter.

11 Sig Regt entered four teams. They were: HQ Sqn with **SSgt Scull, Cpl Pegg** and **LCpl Anderton**, Leadership Wing with **Sig Peden, Grewcock, Horton** and **Thomas**, 3 Sqn A with **JLCpl Stephenson, JSig Newton** and **Castille** and 3 Sqn B with **JSig Watson, Campbell** and **Hunter**. The 3 Sqn A team came first winning the Wilkinson Sword Trophy for the fastest team of the day in a time of 2 hrs 50 mins. They also won the ATC Trophy for the fastest junior team.

The remaining participants all finished the course and all are to be congratulated on their efforts in taking part and in sponsorship of this worthy cause.

EXERCISE MAIDENS FOLLY

Following on from previous years exercises, Maidens Folly was revamped and revitalised for 1988, and took place on a cold damp and thoroughly miserable day in May.

It had been decided to give the ladies a taste of what their husbands put the recruits through during the stages of basic training. It began innocently enough, with an introduction and welcome by **Maj Barney Hill**, the OC 1 Sqn. They were split into two sections and 'greeted' by their new section corporals. They were then issued their very fashionable combat jackets and webbing. Once the fashion parade was over they were 'ordered' out on to the square for drill. Here without exception, all failed to impress their newly adopted section corporals and were promptly failed.

The next treat in store was the ubiquitous urn of Army tea, served delicately by their delightful 'prisoner of the day', **Cpl Stimson**. A short break ensued before progressing on to the .22 shoot, ably run by **Sgt Mason** and **Cpl Strudwick**. The shoot proved to be an interesting activity with some very good shooting being recorded, by such notables as **Mrs Pam Hill** (who no doubt had been put through plenty of extra training beforehand).

After a morning's hard work in the field the thought of lunch whetted many an appetite. This was soon reduced to a smoulder after the introduction to the infamous '24 hour ration pack' (that's why they always come home hungry after an exercise). As befits good DS, pie and chips were on hand; only to be outdone by one of the more experienced recruits who produced a bottle of wine (what happened at the kit inspection DS?).

Having been fed, watered and rested the sections were introduced to the art of fieldcraft and the throwing of thunderflashes, a good excuse to blow up **Cpl Stimson** once and for all.

Finally, looking like stand-ins for the 'Black and White Minstrel Show' the ladies were given the task of recovering some classified material. The School of Infantry would have shuddered at some of the tactics used (all's fair in love and war!), however, with much shouting and screaming the mission was achieved.

It was then back to the troop lines for a quick wash and brush up before the course debrief. Then with a cup of cookhouse tea in hand, the freshly trained recruits were all presented with a memento of their day in the Army by their Commanding Officer, who thanked them all for their sustained efforts during their period of training.

Despite the weather, the day was enjoyed by all who took part and hopefully the DS will remember to put in their indents for good weather earlier next year. Thanks must go to all the instructors who for personal reasons wish to remain anonymous, and to 'Q' **Norris** who fed and watered all through the day. Finally, thanks must go to **Mrs Diane Della** who with her helpers ran the creche and made the whole day possible.

11 Sig Regt BSAD Wheelchair Marathon Teams
Back Row L to R: Y Robinson, Cpl Pegg, LCpl Anderton, JSig Hunter, Newton, Mr Dennis Walker (Regional Sales Manager of Wilkinson Sword), Sig Peden, Grewcock and SSgt Scull
Front Row L to R: JSig Watson, JLCpl Stephenson, S. Pugal, JSig Castille, A. Dickinson, JSig Campbell

EXERCISE MAIDENS JOLLY

For some years now the Regiment has run an Adventure Training Centre at Dent in Cumbria. In July this year the Wives Club got around to paying a visit.

Our brave hosts for the weekend were the permanent staff instructors, namely **SSgt Phil Boon, Sgt Dougie Stevenson, Cpls Iain Johnstone** and **Mick North**, headed by **Lt Huw Wareham**, plus of course, resident chef **Cpl Ted Davis**.

The Centre offers a wide range of outdoor activities, but time and weather restricted us to just two: caving and abseiling ('sliding down a rope'). Joining in with us for the weekend's activities were our minibus drivers, **Cpl Ian Holt** of 3 Troop and **Cpl** (now Mr) **Paul Gillon** of Depot Tp. The narrow roads of the area provided them with many opportunities to show their driving skills—we just wish they had! (only joking!).

Everyone has their own memories of the caving and abseiling, but generally speaking, caving was the favourite. The viaduct from which we abseiled was 80ft high and the common phrase was, 'I never been so frightened in my life'. Most of us displayed this too, with the exception of **Mary Crane** who remained serene and calm throughout.

Diana Vella and **Sharon Turnbull** showed real courage; both of them were white and shaking at the mere thought of abseiling, but still did it. Equally courageous was **Gill Brine** who confessed to claustrophobia on emerging from a caving system with Britain's tightest squeeze: 22cm—whew!

In fact, as **Maureen Whitehead** said, we were all brave, and on returning to the Centre after Day 1 we had another opportunity to demonstrate this, with the 'Night Line'. This was an obstacle course to be negotiated blindfold with a single rope for guidance. We all had the opportunity to fall into baths of water, beds of nettles, off five-bar gates and over stone walls, all the while providing endless entertainment for the instructors. Incredibly no one was really hurt.

We followed this torture with a super barbecue and thanks to **Sig Warren, Farmiloe, Robertson** and **Russell** of CT Tp we didn't even have to wash up—luxury.

During our night spent under canvas, the weather, previously sullen, turned downright nasty. With tent flaps cracking like pistol shots and the rain hammering down, a sleepless night was spent by all. **Andrea McCulloch** was particularly delighted to discover that the tent supplied by her husband, **Cpl Steve McCulloch**, leaked directly over her head.

During the night we suffered the weekend's only casualty when **Anne-Marie Deegan** discovered that her shins weren't as hard as the stone wall she hit, ouch!

After further sessions of caving or abseiling on the Sunday we gathered at the Centre and reflected on the weekend's lighter moments. These included **Maureen Whitehead**'s discovery that a caving jacket fits better with the coathanger removed, and **Beryl Britton**'s discovering how her camera worked five minutes before we left for home. **Beryl** then used this knowledge to take team photos of the 'Dirty Dozen' who were: **Andrea Collyer, Maureen Whitehead, Sue Hough, Anne-Marie Deegan, Katie Burgin, Mary Crane, Diana Vella, Jo Abbot, Gill Brine, Sharon Turnbull, Andrea McCulloch**, who wrote this, and **Beryl Britton** herself.

Our sincere thanks to all the instructors for providing us with a weekend which was truly unforgettable. We headed for home with the faithful promise to return next year, because we had 'all enjoyed it enormously'. Only this time we want to stay a bit longer—sincerely!

Hopefully with us next year will be **Rachel Mason. Rachel** decided on the way up from Catterick that the Fox and Hounds at West Witton was a far better place to spend the weekend, and was duly left there. Thinking about it, we haven't seen her since . . .

1 TROOP

PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**WO1 D. S. Pimm**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Keith Fisher**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl 'Stretch' Barry**
	Cpl Steve Bovan
	Cpl Chris Carling
	Cpl Rab Horne

From 15 May to 16 July adult recruit course 8804 completed its basic military training and what an eventful nine weeks it was. On the first sight of this gathering of assorted potential soldiers, the challenge to transform them seemed more awesome than usual. Could it be done? The initial interviews conducted over the first few days were not encouraging. Sitting in front of his troop commander was a recruit who was rapidly losing the battle to explain why he had been employed underground when he had served with the RAF! The following candidate fared no better, sprawled in a chair wearing dark polaroid spectacles and ably demonstrating his expertise with chewing gum, he assured his boss that army training would be a breeze (man!). And this was only the start. Looking forward to his last troop before posting **Sgt Keith Fisher** was anxious to finish on a high note. But, for the first time, he had his doubts.

The next four weeks proved to be hard going but then, almost overnight, things were looking up. Turnout became excellent, barrack rooms shone and team spirit soared. Apart from the usual subjects, the inter-troop competition to be held against our old sparring partners 2 Troop, became a main topic of conversation which to our everlasting credit we eventually won but only after very exciting and hard fought contests (notably the log race, recording the closest ever time difference of four seconds). Not only were we destined to become champion troop but had also managed to gain the CO's cup for 'Best Section' under the excellent guidance of **Chris Carling**, and the CO's award for 'Best Recruit' earned by **Sig Calum Smith**. Congratulations go to them and also to **Sig Richard McNaught** for 'Best Endeavour' and **Sig Darren Pritchard** for 'Best Shot'. It was a marvellous team effort and the honour was highlighted with the awards being presented by the parade reviewing officer, Regimental Colonel, **Col M. L. Jennings**.

EXERCISE DALES TREK

As usual our sponsored event goes from strength to strength. On Saturday 2 July the lads were pleased to give their time to raise more funds for our adopted charity, the childrens ward, RVI Newcastle upon Tyne. At 0600 hrs bleary eyed bodies were transported to the North Yorkshire town of Hawes to start their 25km trek to the village of Dent via Ribblehead, over the scenic (and hilly!) Dales National Park. With overcast rain clouds threatening, maps were oriented, compass bearings checked and troops tip-toed quietly along the deserted road leading out of Hawes. Or so they thought. An unintentional lap around the town saw maps and bearings readjusted, and after an agitated 'O' group everyone strode confidently away on the steep bridleway leading to the first checkpoint. Many hills and valleys later the expected Ribblehead viaducts came into view along with the sun for the first time, just in time for lunch. 'Death packs' finally consumed, it was time to attack the summit of Whernside and after passing between the famous tarns, marvel at the breathtaking view down into Dentdale. Leaving the prominent cairns of the windy summit behind, the descent was welcome and the journey's end in sight. The trek finished at the Regiment's adventurous training centre at Dent where **Lt Huw Wareham** had kindly allowed the lads to rest weary feet overnight. As if by way of reward the sun shone again in

Bovans Boys pose along the route

Recruit Course 8804

Fourth Row (Left to Right): Flintham, Brooke, White, Pritchard, Grocott, Harrington, Matthews, Kingsford-Smith and Davison
Third Row (Left to Right): Higgins, Rimmer, Ronald, Smurthwaite, Seville, Silk, Jervis, Stewart, Martin and McNaught
Second Row (Left to Right): Russell, Law, Smith, Howard, Norton, Farmiloe, Rennie, Irwin, Viagas, Wright and Kennedy
Front Row (Left to Right): Cpls A. J. Barry, C. M. Carling, Sgt K. Fisher, WO1 D. S. Pimm, Maj A. B. Hill (Royal Signals), WO2 (SSM) T. A. Mortlock, Cpls R. Horne and S. H. Bovan

Photo by Joseph Krieger

time to help us round off a most enjoyable day with an excellent barbecue party generously supplied by **Cpl Terry Davis ACC** and organised by **Cpl Rab 'Smokey' Horne** whose battle with stubborn charcoal was worthy of a medal! The superb troop effort raised in excess of £1,300 with **Sig Trevor Norton** getting a special mention for raising £330 of sponsorship.

Cpls 'Smokey' Horne and Stevie Bovan tackle a stubborn barbecue whilst Sgt Keith Fisher looks on

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We have soon to say a reluctant farewell to two mainstays of the troop. **Sgt Keith Fisher** (who achieved his ambition of success) is posted to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, and **Cpl Chris Carling** has decided to take his expertise to REME Training Depot, Aborfield. We wish them and their families good luck in their new postings.

We also extend a hearty welcome to our new arrivals, **Cpls 'Stretch' Barry** and **Steve Bovan** and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Finally we thank all our ex-recruits for a splendid course and wish them every success in their chosen careers.

3 (JUNIOR SOLDIER) SQUADRON

SHQ

OC	**Capt Roger Harris**
AO	**WO1 Len Rowland-Jones**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Bohanon**
SSI	**SSgt Barry Stephens**
SQMS	**SSgt Keith Sandy**
Sqn Clk	**Mrs Rene Cox**
Sqn Storeman	**Mr Dougy Thorpe**

We welcome a new Squadron Sergeant Major **WO2 Mick Bohanon**. We wish him a successful tour with the Squadron.

We have now received an intake of 150 junior soldiers. All full of bull, innoculations and with strange equipment that doesn't seem to fit properly.

Now some news from the troops.

BATTLEAXE TROOP

PERSONALITIES

Lt John Vlasto
Sgt Dave Henry
Cpl Nigel Heathcote
Cpl Tony Tranter

Battleaxe Tp is now halfway through its 26 weeks training and is beginning to pull together. The inter-section cross country was run on 29 July with 1 Section taking first prize and **JSig Castle** being the fastest individual, setting a new course record—Congratulations. It is worth noting that despite this achievement his section came last overall, enhancing the value of teamwork. On 4 August there was a parents' Open Day, the first of two for the troop in successive weeks, which gave the Juniors a chance to show off their considerable experience of life in the Army to the next intake's recruits and their parents. It also gave **Cpl Tony Tranter** a chance to let these potential recruits know what they are really letting themselves in for.

The following day the troop was on parade as a back-up troop on a Pass Off Parade. This came early in their training and the cadre spent an anxious week trying to get the drill up to standard. Everyone worked hard but, unfortunately, despite this, the step was lost right at the end as the troop marched off the Square, but nevertheless a valuable experience all round for the troop. All was forgiven (one hopes) when the troop attended the Church parade on Sunday and

provided the ushers, the lesson reader and the bulk of the congregation!

Ex First Try, the troop's first night in the field, finally came at the end of the next week, having been put off for the Pass Off Parade. This was primarily a teaching exercise and was run in a fairly relaxed manner, but for some it was the first night ever out in the open and by the end of the exercise no-one was prepared to claim that they were not tired. A lot of effort was put in and much was learnt from this first exposure to field conditions as a result.

Sgt Dave Henry with JSig Andrew Watson

A week later saw the troop on the first of two sessions of External Leadership Training. This involves half the troop for a week at a time whilst the other half go on leave. During the week everyone had a go at abseiling, caving, orienteering and a two day expedition. Unfortunately poor weather ruled out climbing, a broken canoe trailer ruled out canoeing, and in the second week fatigues for another Pass Off Parade ruled out the expedition. Despite this the External Leadership Training proved very valuable revealing how individuals react to an unfamiliar and frightening situation in a way that no other aspect of the training can. These reactions varied from enthusiasm for overcoming fear to outright refusal to take part.

The other noteworthy event of the last two months was the BSA Wheelchair Marathon in which the Battleaxe Tp A team (subsequently promoted Squadron A team) came first. Well done to **JLCpl Stephenson, JSig Castle** (again) and **JSig Newton**. On 19 September the troop went on leave for a week whilst three new Junior Troops form and the Regiment prepared for Ex Northen Crusade.

Looking back over this period what stands out is the variety of the training that has taken place, from parades to caving, from Parents Open Day to exercise, all in addition to the daily routine of military training and military studies. The troop now looks forward to the second half of the 26 weeks training.

Finally, we have said farewell to **Cpl Edminson** who has been posted within the Squadron. (We only hope that by the next issue of *The Wire* we will have said hello to his replacement!)

JSig Darren Lythe 'Underground' on Adventure Training

JLCpl Andrew Stephenson, JSig Paul Grimes and JSig Chapman enjoying a day out on the water

ULSTER TROOP
EXERCISE SUMMER GRAIL

In the last issue of *The Wire* it was reported that Ulster Tp walked the 182km of the Cleveland Way. It was a sterling effort for all those involved and a total of £1,823.52 was raised for the Fleming Fulton School, Belfast.

On Saturday 3 September, the Troop had a Regimental Dinner, the Guest of Honour being **Mr David Nehaffey**, the school's Headmaster, who flew over to accept the cheque. The dinner was a great succcess, food and wine flowed freely. A suitable touch to the evening was that two pipers from the Queens Royal Irish Hussars piped for us after dinner, the final flourish at a truly superb dinner night.

Lt Matt Fensom presents Mr David Nehaffey with a cheque for £1,823.52

CORPS GOODS

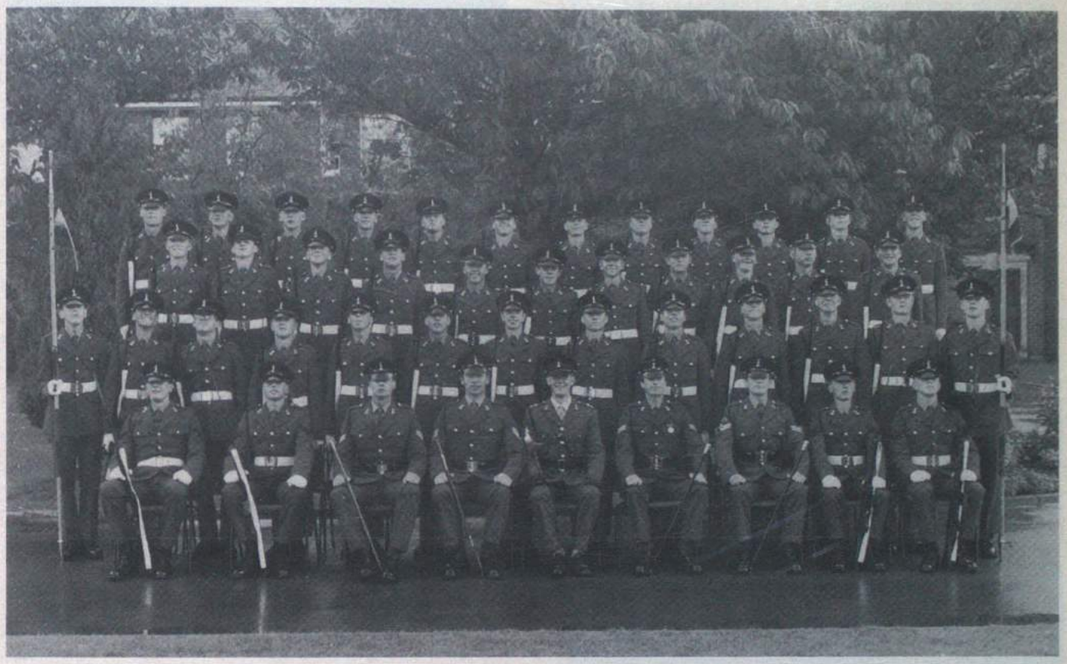
Goods which were sold at RHQ will now be sold from the Museum. Orders/enquiries should be addressed to: Corps Enterprises, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH, or by Telephone (0258) 52581 Ext 2413

PASS OFF PARADE

With the end of course party out of the way and the Pass Off Parade a distant memory, it is time to briefly reflect on the last Ulster Tp which passed off on 16 September.

Fifty started the training back in March and 41 made the grade—leaving to pursue their various trades. It has been a very long time for all concerned—not least for all of the soldiers. During their training they have had to fit in court covering duties at Wimbledon, competing in the Junior Army Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley, walking the Cleveland Way for charity and taking part in a Home Defence exercise. All in all they managed very well—motivated of course, by the Corps Flag! It was very pleasing to hear **JLCpl 'Biffa' Simpson** claim that when he gets his first car he was going to paint it in Corps Colours!

It must be pointed out that the Ulster 'Empire' has now crumbled with the departure of **Cpl Taff Webb** and **Lt Matt Fensom** who move upstairs to Kohima Tp. We are also witnessing the imminent departure of **Sgt 'Geordie' Tough**. Everyone wishes him all the best in his future post. Finally, on behalf of all the Troop permanent staff, we wish all the Ulster lads well and every success in the future.



Ulster Troop

Fourth Row (Left to Right): JSig Ross, Hobbs, Mackenzie, Crowe, Callaghan, Watts, Evans, Wareham, Botwright, Roberts, Williamson and Craig

Third Row (Left to Right): JSig Norton, Cullen, Christie, Buttle, Wilkinson, Fryer, Kidner, Overend, Morrison, Ainslie and Jobson

Second Row (Left to Right): JSig Robertson, Hewitt, Johnson, Phelps, Thomas, Alford, Crampton, Crosswell, McCann, Wilson, Bailey, Benson and McCormick

Front Row (Left to Right): JLCpl Curley, JCpl Walford, Cpl Webb, Sgt Tough, Lt M. J. Fensom, Cpls Evans and Martin, JCpls Watkins and JLCpl Simpson

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

2 SQUADRON

July and August saw a large turnover of personnel with almost the entire hierarchy changing. With so many new brooms sweeping furiously, the Squadron will soon be the cleanest in the Regiment.

The highlight of the period undoubtedly has been the Regimental Summer Camp which took place in the Eifel under the auspices of **Capts Guy Reeve** and **Paul Moss**. The sometimes reluctant trainees practised abseiling and climbing, canoeing and windsurfing, and even had time for a trek or two. It is said that the only day the sun shone was when the Squadron Commander visited, but despite this everyone was in high spirits throughout.

3 SQUADRON

GUARD OF HONOUR

The salute at this years Queen's Birthday Parade in Berlin was taken by **Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal GCVO**, Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps. **The Princess Royal** arrived at RAF Gatow to a warm greeting by the British Military Commandant, **Maj Gen Patrick Brooking. HRH** then inspected a Guard of Honour formed by the men of 'C' Sqn 14/20 Kings Hussars, 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt, and the Berlin HQ and Sig Regt, drawn up on the airport apron under the command of **Maj Stephen Andrews**, OC 3 Sqn. **The Princess** is also Colonel-in-Chief of the 14/20 Kings Hussars.

The day marked the culmination of many rehearsals, which is perhaps why **Sgt 'Taff' Cassells** and **LCpl Chris Whitehead** are smiling as they prepare for the 'final push'. The weather was perfect. **Her Royal Highness** inspected both ranks of the Guard, stopping to talk to **Sgt Steve McLauchlan**, much to his surprise! **Her Royal Highness** was most complimentary of this rather unusual composite Guard—although the use of SMGs did not go unnoticed.

Her Royal Highness stops to ask Sgt Steve McLauchlan about his previous service

Sgt 'Taff' Cassells and LCpl Dave Whitehead look relieved that the rehearsals are now over

VISIT OF SOinC

On a recent visit to the Squadron the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** presented LS&GC Medals to **SSgt M. Smart** and **Sgt N. Greevy**. He also presented the Meritorious Service Medal to **WO2 R. Armstrong** who has completed more than 27 years of service.

Back Row L to R: SSgt M. Smart, WO2 R. Armstrong and Sgt N. Greevy
Front Row L to R: Maj Gen P. D. Alexander, Mrs Armstrong and Lt Col J. H. Roberts

F TROOP

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR BASIC FITNESS TEST

'How should we contribute to RAF Gatow's Air Day?' was the main topic of conversation throughout the corridors of power within F Troop.

We should have known better. Our new OC, **Capt Jim Dodds** was an old hand at such things. 'We will hold a 24 hour Basic Fitness Test and raise money for Age Concern', was the order of the day.

WO1 Al Hale quickly recovered his composure and began the uphill task of convincing the remainder of the Troop of the new OC's sanity. As the appointed day drew nigh, guest runners were coerced into making an appearance for the small donation of 10 DM. These included the Station Commander of RAF Gatow **Gp Capt Peter Eustance**, Commanding Officer of Berlin HQ and Sig Regt, **Lt Col John Munnery**, and Officer Commanding 3 Sqn **Maj Stephen Andrews**.

The 24 hour Basic Fitness Test got underway at 1500 hrs 25 June and continued, despite the drizzle, with at least two runners out on the course at any one time and every member of F Troop competing in at least one BFT in the 24 hour period.

Starlets like **Sgts John Gower** and **Mick Keech** managed seven each. A special mention must go to **ex WO1 (FofS) Fred Brown** and **ex SSgt Don Schrives** who proved that time had not dulled their team spirit and will to succeed. Also to **Carol Dodds** and **Mara Brown** who paid their 10 marks and completed the course.

There was one dodgy moment when **Cpl Peter Sumner** of 26 Sig Unit held the fastest best effort on the BFT with a creditable 8 mins 6 secs. Our secret weapon **Sgt John Gower** saved the Army's blushes with a wind assisted 7 mins 41 secs, and was immediately put on stand-by for Seoul.

On the penultimate BFT we were joined by two teams from the 'Kings' led by **Capt Tim Cain**. Over a slightly altered route they dragged two Wombat guns around RAF Gatow and managed to collect 232 marks from the Air Day crowds.

The start "Ready, steady . . . wait for it . . .' Capt Dodds getting the 24 hour marathon under way

The last BFT was run as a squad with all available F Troop members happy to run in the knowledge that they had raised, by individual sponsorship, over 3,000 marks for Age Concern and 632 marks from guest runners for the GOSH Wishing Well Appeal.

H TROOP

OC	**Capt N. J. Yeoell**
2IC	**Capt D. Weir MBE**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) C. R. Blackburn**
OPWO	**WO1 J. F. W. Sinden**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) N. Fordyce**

H TROOP'S SECOND FREEDOM RIGHTS PARADE

On a hot, cloudless evening of 14 June, as the clock above the Rathaus was striking 1830 hrs, the troop, led by the immaculate Regimental Band of 1 Queen's Dragoon Guards from Wolfenbuttel, marched on to the Market Square in Dannenberg/Elbe. This was the second occasion the troop had exercised its Freedom Rights which were granted to the Troop in 1984.

The Inspecting Officer, **Maj Gen R. H. Swinburn**, GOC 1 Armd Div, praised the Troop, which numbered 32 on parade, for its excellent Drill and turnout and congratulated it on the high esteem in which it is held amongst the local community. Regular readers will remember that H Troop was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace in 1983 for its unstinting efforts in fostering a close relationship with the people of Dannenberg.

These sentiments were echoed by the Mayor, **Burgermeister Hermann Predohl**, who welcomed the Officers, NCOs and their families to the parade and thanked them for the positive efforts that have been made over the years to ensure that they all live and work in the community as friends and not as strangers. This was more than evident at the Cocktail Party in the Zur Post Hotel afterwards, where over 200 guests of both nationalities enjoyed a convivial two hours of celebration.

H TROOP REUNION

H Troop has existed for 15 years now and since the current Operations Officer, **Capt Dennis Weir** was there at the start as a (youngish) sergeant, he took it upon himself to organise the Troop's first official reunion. Invitations were sent to over 90 former members, who had served with distinction at Gross Gusborn and the 40 or so, who were able to accept, began to arrive on the Wednesday immediately following the Freedom Parade, which remarkably coincided with the opening of the town's Schuetzenfest. These five days of festivities provided the perfect framework for the reunion and many old acquaintances both military and civilian were renewed. There were no 'Guests of Honour' but we were especially delighted to welcome back **Maj (Retd) Mike Bullet** and **Lt Col E. H. Sambell OBE** our first two Officers Commanding, together with five former Operations Officers. **Mike Billet** made the journey from New York, just snatching the 'longest traveller' prize from **WO1 (FofS) Brian Gardner** and **WO2 Steve Jarvis** who jetted in from Cyprus.

The reunion was a remarkable success, so much so, that the general opinion was for a repeat performance in five year's time. Anyone, who could not make it this time, but would like more information or addresses of old friends at Gross Gusborn should contact Operations Officer, H Troop. To those who were there—thanks! It was marvellous.

SHOOTING GEILENKIRCHEN—25 JUNE

In June the German TA in Geilenkirchen held their second International Shooting Competition. German teams from all over the State were invited to take part. NATO, German Police, Prison Service and local shooting clubs helped to make up the 82 three-man teams that entered. Registration started at 0730 hrs and by 0800 hrs the first round was on its way down the range.

Team Personnel: *L to R:* WO2 John Chudleigh, Sgt 'Shuggy' Brunton, Sgt Cliff Knighton and Pte Suzanne Main

The weapons used for the competition were the G3 (7.62 rifle) from 200m and 100m and the P1 (9mm pistol) at 25m single handed. We had four teams taking part including the WRAC team. Our best team managed a third place, so congratulations go to **WO2 John Chudleigh, Sgts Cliff Knighton** and **Shuggy Brunton** and to the WRAC team who came second in the ladies class **LCpls Anita Thomson, Ruth Birch** and **Pte Suzanne Main**. Condolences, but well done to the other two teams.

THE SHUTZENSCHNUR

Five members of the Regiment travelled to Budel in Holland to take part in a series of qualifying shoots for a Shutzenschnur, which is the German military marksman's lanyard. The team comprising **WO2 Whitton, Sgts Brunton, Carr, Cpl Malt, LCpl Ryan** and **WPte Main**, was competing by kind invitation of **Hauptmann Spaniol**, Commander Kompanie 9 Luftwaffenausbildungsregiment 2. This unit trains recruits for the German Air Force in peacetime and has an airfield defence role in war.

All members of the team fired, G3 rifle, P1 pistol and the machine gun during the course of the day with expert tuition given by **Hauptmann Spaniol** and the company 2IC **Oberleutenant Herzog** to those who were unfamiliar with the German weapons.

The shoots for the machine guns were conducted at 25m with competitors required to engage three 18cm targets with an inner bull of 7cm. The first shoot was 15 rounds to engage all targets with no time limit and the second practice was to engage a further 3 targets with 15 rounds in 20 seconds. With a cyclic rate of fire approaching 1,200 rounds a minute **WPte Main** was more than a little surprised to find she had fired all but one round in the first burst.

The rifle shoot consisted of 20 rounds at a target similar to a figure 12. The first two rounds were sighting shots from 200m with the weapon resting on a sandbag. These were then followed by six more rounds to count from the same position and six rounds from the prone unsupported position before moving down to 150m for six rounds from the kneeling position.

Following lunch on the range, German style (complete with some knackwurst and ice cream) the team impressed the assembled recruits and instructors by hitting most of the targets with the P1 pistol before returning to the company training area for a quick instruction on the Rheinmetall 20mm AA gun system with which the Regiment is equipped.

Although no team member qualified for the marksman lanyard outright on the day each individual had their scores recorded in their personal shooting records which were presented by **Hauptmann Spaniol** at the end of the shooting and the results can be carried forward to other shoots later in the year.

Live Firing—*L to R:* (Behind the machine guns) Cpl Dick Malt and WPte Sue Main

INTERNATIONAL NIJMEGEN MARCHES

Sunday 17 July saw the departure of the Regimental March team for Nijmegen in Holland where we were to live for a week in an

enormous sports hall full of women from all different nationalities. We had planned to enter a completely WRAC team; however, due to unforeseen circumstances we were forced to allow two men to join our ranks, **Sgt Max Inman** (16 Sig Regt) and **Cpl Taff Evans**.

The team was organised and trained by **WO2 Nancy McDougall** who having completed the Marches last year was an 'old hand'. **Cpl Chris Williams** and **LCpl Alison Semmens** also marched in 1987. The other team members were **Lt Catriona Hay, Sgts Anne Moir, Sandy Penniston, Yvonne Rouse, LCpls Sandy Culyer** and **Karen Stickland**.

Months of training and qualifying marches paid off as we completed the days with only minimal foot injuries. We slipped into a strange routine of rising before dawn to march 25 miles amongst other singing teams and individuals from every corner of the globe, returning to our sports hall to 'enjoy' a communal cold shower, having feet tended to by marvelleous Dutch Medics, sleeping the sleep of the just and rising again before dawn. We did this four days and each day wondered why we were doing it. A great incentive was the Yorkhill Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow for whom we raised £800 towards one of their scanner appeals.

VOLLEYBALL

The Volleyball season has been a very mixed affair with the Mens team winning the RCZ league and coming runners-up to the Cup, so, sadly not qualifying for the BAOR finals. However the womens team was more successful and after defending their BAOR volleyball title went forward to represent BAOR in the inter-unit championships held in Aldershot. In this competition the 13 Sig Regt team played six matches which they won convincingly dropping only one set. This made the women's team the Army Champions for the second year and the first team to retain the title since the introduction of the competition. The team members were: **WO2 Nancy McDougall, Sgt Sandy Penniston, Cpls Karen Prentice, Elaine Brady, Tracey Black, Helen Cuthbertson, LCpls Carole Booth** and **Sheena Ellis**—Coach: **Sgt Richie Maddock**.

The Volleyball squads would like to thank Delta Data for providing them with the new equipment for the forthcoming season and hope it will be a successful one. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to **WO1 Tony Bird** who has been a great influence on Volleyball in the Regiment. Thanks for your efforts and we wish you the best in the future.

ATHLETICS

The athletics season for the Regiment started with the Regimental Athletics Standards Competition, which this year was won by 1 Sqn. At the end of the competition 1 Sqn again achieved first place at the Regimental Athletics Meeting, with **Sgt Mills** of 1 Sqn setting a new record for the pole vault. In the separate WRAC events the following new Regimental records were achieved: high jump by **Sgt Penniston WRAC**, javelin by **LCpl Ellis** and 110m hurdles by **Cpl Prentice**.

At the Morrison Cup Competition, the Regiment achieved only eighth place, however, later the same week honour was restored when a very creditable second place was achieved in the Rear Combat Zone Athletics Competition.

The final highlight of the Athletics Season came when **Sgt Penniston WRAC** achieved third place in the 3,000m at the Army Individual Athletics Championships in Aldershot.

ARCHERY

The Mercury Bowmen have acquitted themselves quite well and now boast a membership of 12 budding Robin Hoods. The outdoor season commenced with the Unit hosting the BAOR and Open Archery Championships. Competitions continued throughout the season with the following individual results: **Sgts Mick** and **Anne Moir** both selected to represent BAOR Archery Association in the Inter-Service Championships. **Sgt Cliff Knighton** selected for the indoor championships. **Mr Kevin Kerr** (son of **SSgt Wally Kerr**) winning the junior BAOR Championship medal. First lady title being won consistently by **Sgt Anne Moir** or **Mrs Wendy Hunter. LCpl Rob McLellan** winning the best novice medal. All in all a good season for the Unit's bowmen.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Regimental cross country race was held in wet miserable conditions on 23 September. 3 Sqn was victorious in the team event and also took the first two individual places. The course this year was a flatter, faster course and to everyones relief bypassed the dreaded quarry.

A 'Volkslauf' type run was also organised utilising the same route and was open to all those not involved in the main competition.

The ladies race was won by a very surprised **WO2 Ann Livesley** who defeated all by following the correct course. The results of the Regimental cross country were:

Team Competition	1st	3 Sqn
	2nd	1 Sqn
	3rd	2 Sqn
Individual Men	1st	**LCpl Williams**
	2nd	**SSgt Facer**
	3rd	**Sgt Butler**
Individual Women	1st	**WO2 Livesley**
	2nd	**Sgt Mandella**
	3rd	**Pte Main**
3 Mile Volkslauf	1st	**Capt Rix**
	2nd	**SSgt Chapman**
6 Mile Volkslauf	1st	**Maj Doherty**
	2nd	**Maj Maunder**

A MARATHON EFFORT

It has taken **Cpl Philip Sandford** quite some time to gather together the sponsorship money pledged from his participation in the London Marathon—but it has been well worth waiting for. **Cpl Sandford** expected to raise about £400 but he didn't account for the assistance he was to receive from his Army mates, families and friends. He has now surpassed all his expectations and been able to send off a cheque for **£1,152.78p** to the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH).

Cpl Sandford chose ASBAH as the beneficiary of his efforts because, tragically, he and his wife **Carole** lost an infant daughter to hydrocephalus last year, while a colleague's daughter has been born with spina bifida. He has all-too-real experience of the suffering the diseases bring, and set out to help others who might find themselves in the same situation.

Cpl Sandford has been prevented by injury from taking part in the Berlin Marathon in October but hopes to improve on his time of 3 hrs 55 mins in the London event in 1989.

'Three times better than expected' Cpl Philip Sandford presenting a blown up version of his cheque to the CO Lt Col John Roberts for forwarding onto ASBAH

SERGEANTS' MESS—SOCIAL EVENTS

The Mess held a Summer Ball on 10 June, expertly orchestrated by **WO1 (FofS) Stan Grimmitt** and his committee. The wide-ranging menu was outstanding with the centre-piece being a shark. It is believed that it left some teeth marks on the thumb of a certain Major who was inspecting it!

The following Corps Mess members have been dined out over the past few months: **WO1 (YofS) Trevor Taylor**—for civilian life and his own business, **WO1 Tony Bird**—Depot Tp, 11 Sig Regt attached to 34 Sig Regt TA and **WO2 (RQMS) Dennis Mustard**—Depot Tp, 11 Sig Regt.

On 19 June, the Mess 'took on' teams from the Officers' Mess and Junior Ranks Mess at softball. The games were ably umpired by **CW4 Mike Murphy**, US Army, and **Sgt Mick Patchitt**.

The Mess won all their games even though the team could only remember three or so of the official rules of play! The winning team consisted of following Mess members: **WO1 (RSM) Jim Neil, WO1s Stan Grimmitt, Andy Jones, WO2s Steve Turnock, Ann Livesley, Pete Grainger, Bernie McCormick, WO2 (QMSI) Dave Scott, SSgts John Chapman, Steve O'Dare, Sgts Chris Lowish** and **Al Morton**.

WO1 Stan Grimmitt must be congratulated on making an excellent catch with his right hand even though his protective glove was on his left hand!

The WRAC element of the Regiment organised the 'Bratty' stall, and the whole afternoon was regarded by everyone present as a great success.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

RHQ TP PERSONALITIES

ORQMS	**WO2 Chris Bell**
	Designate WO2 Vick Hoyle
RSM	**WO1 Pete Aitken**
ORS	**Sgt Brian Durlik**
Clerks	**Cpl Griff Griffiths**
	Cpl Paul Storrs
	LCpl Keith Townsin
	LCpl Billy Berkery
	LCpl Carl Anderson
	LCpl 'Smudge' Smith
	Sig Jason Ward
	Sig 'Mac' McEwan
Post NCO	**Cpl Mark Gibson**

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

Report by Cpl 'Griff' Griffiths

Since the last report RHQ Tp has had its fair share of new staff and also a few farewells. Firstly we would like to say farewell to **Cpls Simon** and **Maggs Windus** to HQ Northag. **Simon** is leaving us on promotion, best wishes to you both.

New on the arrivals list are **LCpl Carl Anderson** from 244 Sig Sqn, **Sig (now LCpl) Billy Berkery** from 32 Sig Regt (V), **LCpl 'Smudge' Smith** from 249 Sig Sqn and **Sig McEwan** from 8 Sig Regt, welcome to the merry, overworked and underpaid, crew of RHQ.

DINING OUT OF WO2 CHRIS AND KAREN BELL

In early August we were to learn that our Chief Clerk was to leave us on posting to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt on promotion to Superintendent Clerk. So therefore knowing the Chief has a soft spot for Greek food and red wine, we booked into a suitable restaurant for the evening of 26 August. Entertainment was provided by the Adjt **Capt Alan Madsen** whose riddles kept us guessing all evening. The wives' seemed to know most of the answers which just goes to show there is more to them than just a pretty face. We would like to wish **Chris** and **Karen Bell** all the best at 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Our loss but their gain!

RHQ CANOE TRIP/MARATHON

On 10 August the CO, **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe MBE** thought that the boys of RHQ obviously don't get enough fresh air. He therefore decided we should test the new Regimental canoes! As all became clear, we were to canoe 40km down the River Aller. '40km we thought' that's not far!! Well, off we went early in the morning and arrived at the start point with our instructors **Cpl Tim Abbot** and **LCpl Dean Clifford**. It was a cold and misty morning on the river and we were soon to learn just how cold. 'How are your capsize drills lads?' one instructor was heard to say. 'You mean we have to get wet?', was the reply. That was an understatement! We entered our canoes, paddled on to the river and capsized. Panicking, kicking and struggling we all managed to return to the bank, only to be told 'you didn't do it right, get back out there and, do it again'. Great we thought. Capsize drills successfully practised we set off. **LCpl Keith Townsin** must get the award for the most enthusiastic canoeist, he seemed to enjoy capsize drills, spending more time under the water then on top of it. We paddled our merry way down stream, occasionally leaving the water to negotiate wiers and locks, until 20km down at a bridge we stopped for lunch and were met by the CO. Having stopped by a bridge we were encouraged by the instructors to balance a canoe on the bridge edge with one of us perched in the canoe to be pushed off into the river. Bags of chance, not too many heroes in RHQ. One of us did got through this ordeal. The CO himself! Well done **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe**. After lunch we paddled the remaining 20km to be met in Celle. A good and tiring day was had by all. The intrepid canoeists' of the day were: **Maj Hickie RAPC, Capt Alan Madsen, WO2 (ORQMS) Chris Bell, Sgt Brian Durlik, Cpls 'Griff' Griffiths, Paul Storrs, Paul Burgess RAPC, Neil Quinn RAPC, LCpls Keith Townsin, Carl Anderson, 'Smudge' Smith** and **Sig Jason Ward**. Well done lads, even though we all walked like cripples the next day!

CONGRATULATIONS

We must mention the promotion to Lance Corporal of our **Sig Billy Berkery**. Well done. Also we would never be forgiven if we forgot to mention that **LCpl Neil Quinn RAPC** is now a Corporal.

LATE NEWS

We look forward to meeting and working with the new Chief Clerk **WO2 Vic Hoyle** late of HQ 11 Sig Bde.

FIELD STATION LANGELEBEN

A small break between visits gave us the opportunity to hold our third anniversary dinner. This was a dinner with a difference and had all ranks from Corporal to Captain represented, including some of our neighbours from the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards. According to the letters of appreciation the dinner was a great success. The excellent meal was served in reverse and after the loyal toast (which came early, of course) all present were invited by **WO1 Neil Mapp** to speak on a subject of his choice. This came as quite a shock to some but the outcome was hilarious.

The second half of August saw a Danish invasion of FSL by our friends of the EW Coy Landzealand. We were sad to see them go in September.

In August we were visited by **Brig Tim Waugh MBE** who flew in with the CO **Lt Col John Stokoe** for his first visit to the Field Station. (This was his first visit since 1964). With vested interest, **Brig Waugh** went into all of the manifold aspects of Field Station Langeleben in depth and knowing that he has our interests at heart, we look forward to his next visit in the not too distant future.

QM TECH DEPT

'Write something for *The Wire*, and make sure everyone gets a mention', I was told. So I made out a list of all the people in the department and I am starting at the top.

Our QM **Maj Gordon Platts** is away sick at the present with a back injury that we all hope isn't too painful. The QM's absence has thrown our brand new RQMS **Peter Woodward** in at the deep end but, he is paddling nicely, thanks largely to **Sgt Brian Donegan**'s limitless supply of useful information.

LCpl and **Mrs Cavanagh** are expecting an addition to their family so the RQMS has thoughtfully transferred him to the Armoury to get him used to getting up at silly times in the morning!

LCpl 'Mac' McCormick has inherited the vehicles account and things in there are not as confusing as they used to be.

The AGF1098 and Misc account is in the hands of **LCpl 'Murry' Walker** or 'CorpsWalks' and **LCpl Colin Rich. Colin**, though new to the job, has honed both mind and body preparing for days ahead.

The new physical training regime has hit **Sig Brian Parry** hard. He broke into a sweat reading the list of what we were doing this month.

Doctors are still confused over the strange mental effect pistols have on **Sig 'Geordie' Alsop** after the trail of destruction left at Sheuen Ranges. As yet this has not been attributed to anything specific.

The return of one **Pat** saw the departure of another as **Patrick 'Paddy' O'Flannegan** said goodbye to the Army after nearly 50 years service. That left the last civvy post to **Alec McMinn** who pulls the wool over our eyes by selling it to our wives.

The only thing I can tell you about myself is that I am **Sig Ian Bain**, and the last person on my list.

HQ SQUADRON

SHQ TROOP

We had a busy time over the last weeks in July and the beginning of August, but most have managed a sunshine break since then. We are all back but only to find more changes in our staff. To the man with many hats, Squadron 2IC PRI officer, MTO, Scout Leader **Capt Brian Dearman** and his wife **Margret**, we bid a fond farewell. **Margret** and **Brian** will be greatly missed by many members of the unit for their involvement with the PRI. We, therefore, also like to thank them for the time and help we received from them.

We bid farewell to **SSgt (SQMS) Derek Whitchell** and his wife **Joyce** and wish them well for the future. The NAAFI wont be the same without your smiling face **Joyce**. We congratulate **Sgt Norman Yarwood** on his promotion to Staff Sergeant and welcome **Norman** and his wife **Sue** to HQ Sqn. **Norman** is the new SQMS.

MT SQUADRON

We bid farewell to **Sgt Phil Sales** and his wife **Sue. Phil** has completed his 22 years for Queen and country and has gone to rest in sunny Yorkshire. Good luck for the future.

We also say goodbye to **Sig 'Woody' Wooding**, posted to 21 Sig Regt in October. He should now find his new life working on generators a lot slower than driving.

ADVENTURE TRAINING SUMMER
by Cpl Mark Wharton

This year to our surprise and, more so, to **QMSI Dick Parker** and **WO2 (MTWO) Rod Pylee**'s. HQ Sqn had an adventure training exercise in the sunny Harz Mountains. Recces were carried out a number of times, with **Parker** and **Pylee** finally finding a nice little spot by one of the lakes. **Sgt Terry Rosenberg (REME)** was successful in training most of the lads in windsurfing without the normal wind assistance. He had his failures though. **Sig 'Woody' Wooding** and **LCpl 'Murray' Walker** found that water did not agree with them, while **WO2 'Rod' Pylee** and **Cpl Sweatman** spent more time in the water than on the sail board.

LCpl 'Jock' McKay (REME) and **Cpl 'Frankie' Vaughan** need to get some night navigation practice along with some members of TM Tp, the smoothies at windsurfing. **QMSI Dick Parker**, was he there? The long trekking overnight exercise was a big success but how did we manage to lose **Sig Ward**? We were visited by day trippers and their families. The OC **Maj Eddie Kellet** teamed up with the SSM **WO2 Tony Lunney** to pit their skills against the young fishermen. The week ended with a barbecue.

TREASURE HUNT

On 2 September some members of HQ Sqn gathered together for a day trip around the countryside. A family car rally/Treasure Hunt was organised by **Sgt 'Tally' Talbot** and **Sgt Brian Donegan** together with an extraordinary system of scoring points. At 1000 hrs, with the normal confusion of lots of maps, a questionnaire and babies crying, the teams set off to the nice sunny countryside. After three long hours the first cars started to turn up at the finish point, where the answers to the questions were revealed. **Sgt Pete Dawson** didn't see the amber light and should have won, never mind **Pete** we'll see you next year.

The prizes were presented by **Mrs Ruby Kellett** to first place **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Woodward** and family, second place, **Lt Col Stokoe** and family and third place the Singlies, **Sig Parkes, Sig Kilby** and **LCpl Casson**. Everyone left for home after a very good day out.

WO2 (RQMS) Pete Woodward receives prize from Mrs Ruby Kellett

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to all members in HQ Sqn who helped us to win the Regt Inter Sqn Cross-Country—an 11km course.

1 SQUADRON
SHQ TROOP

OC	**Maj J. P. Hudson**
2IC	**Capt J. S. Lugg**
SSM	**WO2 Metcalfe**
YofS	**SSgt Little**
SQMS	**SSgt Taylor**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Hall**

Firstly we would like to say hello to **Cpl 'Wally' Walsh** who recently joined us from W Troop, **LCpl 'Smudge' Smith** who recently joined us from X Troop, also to **Sgt Penn**.

We would like to say goodbye to **LCpl 'Brummy' Haynes** now in X Troop, **Cpl 'Sammy' James** now in W Troop and to **Sgt Duncan Hall** who is moving on to greater heights and returning to 4 ADSR for his third attempt at the battery shop.

September was the time for the annual escape and evasion exercise, Ex Sweaty Palm.

It was executed in three stages; stage three being the highlight, where members were let loose for four days to live off the land and evade any hunter force deployed in the area. The OC Sqn **Maj Hudson** determined that the Squadron should be first in everything set a good example—he was the first to be captured; a well earned gold medal. Sadly the SSM had to settle for silver and bronze.

Sgt Duncan Hall however was completely the opposite, come endex and he was still nowhere to be found, quite like his normal working day.

Top of the bill has to be **YofS Stu Little** who was so determined not to be captured. When he was captured for the second time, escaped less his boots, what a brave man?

Other members of the troop were on the instructional side, **Cpl 'Ned Trapper' Kelly** who spent the best part of two days erecting man traps over the Luneburg training area claiming he was trying to catch rabbits.

Cpl 'Wally' Walsh who whilst preparing his lesson on how to light a fire ended up with no eyebrows and a burnt hand!

More of the runners (escapees): **Capt Lugg** who was also captured and served his time in the pen. **Cpl Joyce** who survived and was not caught, obviously at home in the wild. **Sig 'Taff' Greenway** also not captured. **LCpls 'Smudge' Smith** and **Ian Proctor** who after phase 1 had to return to camp, due to old war wounds giving them 'gip'.

Our only traitor to the hunter force **Sig George Norton** who didn't fancy all that running around, and finally holding the fort and worrying about us all **Sgt Dave Taylor**.

J TROOP

Since the last epistle from the busiest troop of the 1st Sqn we have been busy with 1st/2nd lines and whilst the rest of the Squadron deployed on exercise the troop found itself up to its neck in dirt and grease preparing wagons for even more support exercises!

Even though the troop has lost **2Lt John Botterill** the task of running it has been nobly done by **Sgt 'Tony' Allen**. The troop has been multi-national supporting France, USA, Germany and the Netherlands and even managed to deploy a Bromure with only one reflector, (and it wasn't even his wagon—nice one Jock).

The troop also had a great time on Sweaty Palm 88, evading well but some did manage to get to play in the 'sand pit' which was all good for morale.

We would like to welcome **LCpl 'Scouse' Cawson, Sig Bagnall** and **Sig Johnston** also to **LCpl 'Rich' Bonser** and **Cpl 'Gaz' Foster** on the recent additions to their families, congratulations.

Last but by no means least, we say goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Tony Allen** off to 640 Tp (home from home) and to **Sig Ellis** off to Cyprus and then to 21 Sig Regt.

X-RAY TROOP
THE MANAGEMENT
Capt Simon Purser
WO2 Peter Bull (RA Signals)

1 Sqn has been enjoying the late summer and early autumn in its usual wide-spread fashion. Among the high points of the last few months were Ex Rising Star in September, when **Cpl Cliff Corbey** demonstrated that a 21m mast trailer could do a totally unconvincing impression of a unicycle and **LCpl Williamson** was at last compelled to admit that, yes, he can't see at night. (This as a result of planting **Sgt Henrik Kiertzner** and a Land Rover in a deep ditch by the side of a wide track in bright moonlight!)

Most of the Troop deployed to Denmark in mid-September to provide support for the Royal Signals Regatta. The tragic loss of one of our SNCOs left everyone very saddened and the Troop sends its condolences to his family.

Ex Sweaty Palm 88 was next on the agenda and highlights were the capture of the Sqn Comd (twice), the first time even before the last group of runners had been released. The way in which the local population in the exercise area, of their own accord without prompting, begging or requesting, came forward with offers of shelter, sandwiches and lifts. **Capt John Lugg**, the Squadron 2IC, can perhaps elucidate.

New arrivals include the handsome **Sgt Richie Plummer** and **LCpls Andy Davies, Rick Brown** and **Frank Bruno Adams** and their families as well as **Sig Duggan**.

Departures include **LCpl Danny Thrasher** on his B1, **LCpl 'Smudge' Smith** to the Van Diemens Land of SHQ Tp, **Sig Andy Ball** to TRA and **LCpl Johnathan Wood**.

2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj John Steed**
2IC	**Capt Stuart Sharman**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Phil Rumsey**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Dave Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Terry Palmer**
OC K	**WO1 Tommy Hardingham**
OC R	**Capt George Prideaux**
OC V	**Lt Nigel Dakin**
OC Y	**Lt Mark Whyte**

After several months absence from *The Wire* a scribe has finally been 'jiffed' to ensure that 2 Sqn stays firmly on the map. Squadron HQ has continued to shrink of recent months with the SSM now confined to a broom cupbard and the 2IC, YofS, Trg WO, Clerk and loitering troop commanders sharing a large MFO box. The OC has retained his palatial surroundings yet even that becomes cramped with 37 officers, WO's and NSCO's crowded around a map board trying to see which small location the big hand on the small map was pointing to! The YofS has continued to cheer everybody up with his quick wit and repartee and proving a calm soothing influence on the Squadron command net.

KILO TROOP

After seven months sterling work **WO2 Sherwood** has departed for Regimental Training Wing where his expertise in NBC matters should benefit the whole Regiment. In his place is **WO1 Tommy Hardingham** who says he does not know what NBC stands for.

ROMEO TROOP

All members of Romeo Tp have managed 'swans' in some degree or other. Most of the troop deployed to the Baltic for Ex Northern Scan which proved to be a thoroughly worthwhile and rewarding experience for all concerned.

VICTOR TROOP

The troop is growing in size and confidence daily and is in danger of falling out of the cuckoos nest. We have just returned from our first major FTX, Ex Golden Crown where we worked in support of 11 Armd Bde. Victor Tp cut its teeth on this one and is now raring to go on Ex Iron Hammer.

YANKEE TROOP

Having been in barracks for a little over four weeks on the trot Yankee Tp is suffering exercise withdrawal symptoms and is champing at the bit to get back out to the simple life in the field. Some notable personalities have departed including **Sgt Steve 'Patel' Phillips** to Beaconsfield, **Cpl John Dornan** to 1 Bde and **Cpl Pete Dowdell** to NI. We continue to receive sickening post-cards from troop **'Staffy' Bob Smith** who is at present on Ex Long Look in New Zealand. We look forward to his return in November. No account of the troop activity would be complete without a mention of our one and only **Sig 'Solly' Madle**.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Squadron has managed to getaway on not one but two camps in the Harz Mountains. We were fortunate on both occasions with the weather and managed to get over 40 soldiers away. Activities undertaken included sailing, rock climbing, trekking and canoeing with a new pursuit known as 'moose hunting' being undertaken under chief instructor **Cpl Mark Smith** and **Sig John Rowe**. The OC proved also that it is possible to capsize a dinghy and come up still smoking a cigarette.

Sgt Paul Gardner before capsizing his Canoe

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Lance Byrne**
2IC	**Capt Adrian Campbell-Black**
OC O Tp	**Lt Andy White**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Neil Leyland**
OC P Tp	**Lt Richard Lapslie**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Terry German**
SSM	**WO2 Rick Logan**
SQMS	**SSgt Bernie Meehan**
YofS	**WO2 Kevin Doyle**
YofS	**SSgt Pete Martin**
MT	**SSgt Mike Halford**

September saw the departure of **WO2 (YofS) McCrindle**, who although he had not been with the Squadron very long had made his presence felt. In turn we welcomed **WO2 (YofS) Doyle**. In the three troops we welcomed **Sig Mahoney, Wykes, Harvey, Vanandel** and **Blunn** as well as **Cpl Addison**. Sad farewells to **Sig Jock Ross, Coomber** and **Cpl Savage** who left us this month. On a more cheery note a number of people in the Squadron were promoted. **2Lt Lapslie** was promoted to Lieutenant just before disappearing to Norway to complete his UEL Course. Congratulations to **LCpl McKie** and **Sig Paddy Robinson** who were promoted to Corporal and Lance Corporal respectively. **Lt White** spent the whole two months in camp, which must be a record. A new troop was formed on the first of August and is now headed by **Capt (Traffic) Gruncell** with **SSgt Mick Halford**. From 20 August to 17 September ten members of the Squadron went on Ex Rocky Diamond. This was a rock-climbing expedition in the Canadian Rockies. Members who took part were **Capt Campbell-Black, SSgt Halford, LCpl Oliver, Sig John Penrose, Matt Lammas, Vincenzo Lund, Smudge Smith, Mark Jarvis** and **Snez Nesbitt**. A very special thank you to **Cpl Chris Bellfield** who helped the Squadron with his rock climbing expertise. The finale for the period was Ex Sweaty Palm and prizes for most style go to **LCpl Roger Moore**, who was last seen cycling towards Hannover in a suit and wearing a trilby.

Sig (Vincenzo) Lund—Canadian Rockies

EXERCISE SWEATY PALM 88—THE HUNTERS' STORY
By WO1 D. Green Hunter Force

The Regimental escape and evasion Ex Sweaty Palm, was held at the end of September. There was an initial phase of instruction and preparation before the main task of providing two forces from the Regiment, a number of runners and a hunter force to catch them.

On Day 1 the first task appeared to be escaping from the torrential rain and evading responsibility for production of Wire Notes! The hunter force, under command of OC HQ Squadron, **Maj E. J. Kellett**, and assisted by the Adjt, **Capt A. J. Madsen** as Operations Officer, set up a Company HQ in the grounds of an export engineering factory. A few civilian houses were also in the area.

The aim was for over 240 runners to be released in the Dannenberg salient area of Northern Germany and, over a period of five days, they

were to cross to Munster, meeting agents at pre-arranged RVs en route. Various stories emerged from the runners about how they crossed the country although there were notable successes for the hunters.

In the first couple of days a number of captures were made and these runners were brought to the Company HQ for processing before handing over to Excon for further questioning, followed by release into the exercise again.

When **Capt J. Lugg** and **WO2 J. Black** were brought in to Company HQ, their possessions were seized and checked and it was discovered that some items of clothing and food had obviously been arranged because their possessions included a frying pan in which to cook the bratwurst and bacon . . .! It was suggested that one of the hunters should cook some of the food in front of the captives and then eat it themselves, but this was considered a little unfair!

On another occasion, our two Loan Service personnel **WO2 J. I. F. March** NZ Army and **WO2 Pete Bull** R Australian Army, were captured. **WO2 March** was not so keen on being hooded and actually jumped away, more in keeping with his Aussie mate. It was also a bit unfair of **Capt Madsen** and **WO1 D. Green** to whistle to a hooded **WO2 Bull** as he was led away, the tune of 'Tie me kangaroo down, Sport'!

As the exercise drew to a close, the hunter force prepared a plan to capture as many runners as possible who were hidden in a local village. Sources indicated as many as twenty escapees were hidden in barns, sheds and even houses. **Lts N. Dakin** and **R. Lapslie** led their platoons to the village area and set up suitable snatch squads and ambushes to capture these men. **Maj Kellet** and a team, including **WO1 Green** and **WO2 Dick Parker**, (looking like a railway porter), captured the formidable team of **Maj L. Byrne, Maj G. Bullivant, WO1 Merv Finch** and **Sgt Henry Kiertzner** just before breakfast! The umpires then decided that the capture of four runners hiding in a local house was also necessary; therefore **Lt M. Whyte** (Umpire) requested the homeowner to release the four escapees. The poor old man broke into tears and hugged each runner, with a tearful apology, as he handed them over! He actually believed they were on the run from the army—really, 14 Regt isn't that bad is it?

The local population proved to be very helpful to the escapees and were, at the same time, a hindrance to the hunters. They continually offered food and accommodation and also means of travel across the country and over the many bridges across the Elbe. It should be pointed out though that one farmer actually made contact with Company HQ in order to offer up some runners for capture!

At the end of the exercise the hunters managed to catch half of the runners, a reasonable result. Such was the success of the runners' training that they did not believe everything they were told. **WO1 Green** and **WO2 Paddy Sherwood** went to collect two of the final captured runners from **Lt Lapslie**'s Platoon. Having had the cuffs and hoods removed, **WO2 Sherwood** put the runners into the back of the vehicle. On the return journey **WO1 Green** tried to enter into conversation with them, without luck. Exasperated he remarked, 'it doesn't matter now lads, no duff. You are no longer prisoners—the exercise is over'. On reaching Uelzen they took the first opportunity to escape, whilst stopping at traffic lights and fled into the night. Its not certain whether they are still running or not!

The exercise proved to be a total success for hunters and runners alike and a very worthwhile learning period for all. Stories will probably continue for months although it is likely that the thing most people will remember, from both forces, will be the friendly help provided by the local population and, in particular, the emotions felt by the older residents of that 'hiding up' village. Suffice it to say, some runners have returned, with gifts, to express their gratitude. Even one of the hunter force plans to return to show he is not really a 'bad guy'.

HQ COMPANY HUNTER FORCE
By SSgt Watson—REME

Maj Kellett, the head hunter, had in his HQ an assortment of REME, RAPC, ACC, RAOC and some Corps personnel. In fact, so short of Corps people that I, a member of the REME, had the doubtful privilege of writing up some Wire Notes (does this mean I get a free copy?)

To return to the matter in hand—**SSM Tony Lunney** on Day 3 of the exercise, decided the QRF and Prisoner Guard force were wet enough and could move inside the factory, the three platoons having left to take up start positions for the exercise. It was also decided to erect the tent inside the factory. Alas the tent was just too wide so to everyone's disappointment, the idea had to be shelved and the tent packed away. That morning we had the dog demonstration. After seeing **Cpl David Baillie**, the HQ Company 'volunteer' being dragged ten yards by the dog once it got him down, we all decided to give the dogs a wide berth!

Day 4 saw the loss of **Cpl Quinn** as a replacement in one of the platoons and by lunchtime the prisoners were arriving at our location thick and fast with no let up through the night.

Day 6 saw the loss of **Cpl Andy Forbes** who was recalled to the Regiment. Before he left he was handcuffed and legcuffed in case he tried to hide away and avoid the stigma of being Rear Details.

Day 6 also saw the loss of **Cpl Gibson** to one of the platoons and by Day 7 everyone was really exhausted. A big sigh of relief was let out when Endex was called. This was followed by a few beers and a barbecue, over which war stories were swapped and then a night's sleep—the most longed-for luxury.

1 PLATOON
By Lt N. Dakin

'If you want a job doing, send for a specialist'. With this in mind, the specialists of the Regiment, the cooks, craftsment, technicians and clerks, joined together to form an Infantry Company worthy of becoming the hunter force for Ex Sweaty Palm 1988.

As the platoon formed up for the first time on a Wednesday morning, few realised what an enjoyable, worthwhile and exhausting week and a half lay ahead of them. What quickly did become clear was that 1 Platoon was no ordinary sub-unit.

The Platoon had a number of successes which included capturing the majority of the Regimental heirarchy, making friends with Benji, one of the most ferocious war dogs in the world and the smashing of an impromptu lifeline established by a small village which could have been lifted from a script of 'Allo, 'Allo!

In retrospect, the benefits of the exercise have been great. HQ Squadron worked as an efficient Infantry Company, putting the runners under great pressure while improving its own military skills. Specialists who normally work on their own became members of a large team. Officers from outside the squadron came to appreciate the vast reservoir of talent within the squadron and the Regiment became closer as a result. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the soldiers enjoyed themselves whilst tackling a steep learning curve. We all look forward Sweaty Palm 1989.

2 PLATOON
By Lt R. Lapslie

After five days of intensive training, 2 Platoon of the hunter force deployed to catch the runners, paying particular attention to the Squadron Commanders, 2ICs and other key personalities from the Regiment.

The Platoon deployed to the central area and expected plenty of trade. The first runners captured were chased through woods and gardens. **Sgt Daniel** and **Sgt Soward** led the two hunter sections while **Sgt Cameron** and his section deployed in Ops. The roles of the sections rotated throughout the exercise.

Some runners were held in a cart with fresh fruit hanging above them, just out of reach. All part of the psychological battle.

Numerous moves kept **SSgt Dyson** busy keeping the Platoon HQ in check. He was also to run the Platoon while the OC, **Lt Lapslie** was away on another chase.

The Adjutant, **Capt Madsen**, was not amused when his vehicle was used for a chase and returned to him over two hours later. A good job we were on exercise otherwise extras would have been the order of the day!

Trade flowed regularly throughout the exercise. A joint operation with 1 Platoon caught OC 3 Squadron, **Maj Byrne** and **WO1 (YofS) Finch**, both prized enemy.

At our last Platoon Headquarters, **SSg (YofS) Little** escaped from the holding pen without his boots. The boots were passed on to Excon for interrogation but they wouldn't talk!

The Platoon worked very hard with very little sleep and food but the incentive of a chase kept them going for the duration of the exercise.

3 PLATOON
By SSgt Rixon

Ex Sweaty Palm for 3 Platoon was a very mixed affair. As the Platoon got together on Wednesday 21 September, it seemed as if we came from the four corners of the earth, a very mixed bunch indeed. The OC was **Lt Edwards** from 7 Brigade. With him he brought eight men led by **Cpl Chapman**, and included three Pioneer lads. There was also myself, currently stationed at Field Station Langeleben, as the Platoon staffy. The rest of the Platoon came from the Regiment and included techs led by **Sgt Brockman**, REME led by **Sgt O'Neill** and MT led by **Sgt Talbot**. Also included were clerks and cooks. After acquaintances were made I set down the ground rules. We then got down to four days training by the end of which we were getting a bit impatient and eager to start the exercise. We were to be the hunter force and, as none of us had done this before, we were eagerly waiting to catch the wobbly heads (EW Ops). Well, the day came and I was thrown on the radio (couldn't get BFBS, only BATCO) while the lads from 7 Bde were out on ops. The other two sections were on five minutes to move and thirty minutes to move. Being in Platoon HQ had its advantages and disadvantages. As I was on the radio I was able to monitor the net and all I could hear were contact reports from the two Platoons to our north, commanded by **Lts Dakin** and **Lapslie**. It was eight hours after their first contact report that we received ours. One of our ops spotted runners coming towards them. We immediately despatched our Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and had the great pleasure of capturing four runners. It then took me two hours to change it into BATCO to send to Company HQ! Unfortunately, that was all we captured in the first 24 hours while the other Platoons seemed to be having a field day. However, we thought our time would come as intelligence reports said that the runners would be zigzagging over the exercise area.

Forty eight hours and 20kms further, we still only had another two runners to add to our credit. As there was a crate of beer for the Platoon which caught the most, we were getting a little worried! Fortunately for us, a section that was out on recce grabbed two key runners who were worth double points, **Capt Lugg** and **WO2 Black** who, when captured, had more kit on them than a food shop. The morale of the Platoon went sky high. We then pulled back to the canal where we thought we would have hordes of runners descending upon us. Manning all the bridges meant there was no way runners could cross without our seeing them. However, it was not to be. The Company plan was to funnel them into the middle platoon. So 32 hours later, being overt on the bridges, we saw no-one but we knew we were doing an important job and nobody's morale dropped too much. The next day we moved over the canal and set up Platoon HQs in a farmyard. The farmer was a nice chap and cheered up the lads immensely with 50 small bottles of Schnapps (of course we saved them!) but his fellow farmer was not so friendly and had to be restrained when he tried to put a 10ft pole through the Puma's blades. We managed to get the chopper off before he could do any damage but **Cpl Sweatman** felt the weight of the wood when it struck his head (wood to wood!). During the next day we caught another nine runners but there was no way we could catch up with the other Platoons who had over 100 between them. Nevertheless, the whole Platoon enjoyed the exercise. Over the week new friends were made, enemies in other cases; but we all learned from each other. Most of all, I now know how to speak on a radio after 15 years with the Royal Signals! I am sure the lads look forward to next year when they all want to volunteer for runner instead of hunter to see what it is like on the other side of the fence.

The 'Hunted look' that says it all

Exercise Sweaty Palm *by Sig Ian Bain*

EXERCISE SWEATY PALM 88

Excon Staff	
Maj John Steed	**Ex Controller**
Capt Stuart Sharman	**Chief Instructor**
Lt Mark Whyte	**Asst Chief Instructor**
WO2 (SSM) Phil Rumsey	
SSgt (SQMS) Terry Palmer	
SSgt (YofS) Dave Thomas	
Miss Kimberley Foster	**Exercise Typist**

September saw the Regiment's annual escape and evasion exercise take place in the Luneburg and Uelzen areas and was the culmination of nine months toil for Ex Controller, **Maj John Steed.**

Detailed planning for the exercise started in January with **Maj Steed** re-writing the entire scenario in order to involve as many Regimental personnel as possible. (Although the majority were not to find out they were involved until 0600 hrs at the start of phase 2.) Detailed knowledge of the exercise was confined to the CO, **Maj Steed** and **SSgt (YofS) Thomas**. (There were a few others but they will remain nameless due to fear of reprisal.)

Phase 1 of the exercise comprised a training period on the Soltau Training Area during which 250 members of the Regiment were taught or revised in Combat Survival and resistance to interrogation under the guidance of **Lt Mark Whyte**. Notable performances include the Land Speed Record for a man being chased by a tracker dog, by **Sig 'Solly' Madle**, with **Maj Lance Byrne** a close second.

The training period was brought 'unexpectedly' to a close by the CO who had woven an outstanding web of deception with **Maj Steed** to keep the Regiment occupied in the field for 48 hours prior to over 200 participants being captured by an 'enemy force' backed up by the Bundesgrenzeschutz. Those captured were subsequently released in patrols of four, dressed only in NBC Suits and Boots with a route of over 100kms to negotiate before reaching friendly forces.

From this point the patrols were on their own and individual initiative took over. Special mention must go to **Sig Mark Harrold**, for acquiring a natty brown suit with matching corduroy hat and also to **Capt John Lugg**, who was captured in possession of a frying pan and a pack of bratties.

No account of Sweaty Palm could be complete with out mention of the Hunter Force, led by **Maj Eddie Kellett**, OC HQ Sqn. They rampaged across the North German Plain leaving no stone unturned, razing villages to the ground in their relentless pursuit of a high 'body count'. Their total capture figure was in the region of 120 out of a total of 230 runners and ensured those running the POW compound were never short of work!

Ex Sweaty Palm 88 proved to be a huge success, due in part to the excellent support received from 664 Sqn AAC, RAVC, 230 Sqn RAF and The RAF Dog Unit, RAF Gutersloh. The instructors are looking forward to Sweaty Palm 89 with work already underway on a new scenario and setting. Who knows, next year we may even use a few more faces from Block 21 'behind the wire!'

Ex Controller Maj John Steed in thoughtful mood—the 'Beastie Boys', Spiers and Stringer contemplate their next victim

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

September was a frenetic month for the Regiment as an outline of our programme will show:

2nd	Sergeants' Mess Dine out **Lt Col Lowe**
9th	Freedom Parade and anniversary dinner
12th	Officers' Mess dine out **Lt Col Lowe**
14th	Cocktail Party and Playing Retreat
16th	Change of Command Parade
18th	Songs of Praise

The regiment was congratulated on the success of these occasions by the Master-of-Signals, Comd Comms BAOR, Comd 4 Sig Gp our Oberburgemeister and others.

I will gloss over the dinings out of **Lt Col Lowe** though it must be admitted, with some jealousy, that the gift of a replica of our 'U' wall by the members of the Sergeants' Mess was outstanding. Those who know the wall (with its badges) know how magnificent a gift that was and how much forethought, by RSM **D. C. Marsden** and his members, that entailed.

Freedom Parade and anniversary dinner. This year was the 25th anniversary of the Regiment in its present form (with WRAC) so the CO **Lt Col Lowe** invited previous commanding officers and their ladies to join in our celebration. It was a truly memorable occasion with the Master of Signals, Comd Comms BAOR and Comd 4 Sig Gp in attendance. The band of the Royal Scots played magnificently and our guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our thanks must go to the German Civil Police and to all the agencies from within the Army who ensured that we had a safe and trouble free day.

Change of Command Parade. It is not traditional for this Regiment to have a formal change of command parade but it does, we think, properly signal the end of an era and celebrate the occasion with appropriate elan. Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** conducted the ceremony of the changing of command. Our legendary good fortune with the weather finally deserted us with a vengeance, but we carried on regardless and saw **Lt Col Lowe** off in fine style surrounded by some of the trophies which have been won during his command and with a bottle of champagne to remind us all of the way he traditionally saluted those who were promoted or earned similar recognition. We bid a fond farewell to **Lt Col Lowe**, and his wife **Leslie** and children **Damian** and **Emily**. We wish them very well in London. Welcome to **Lt Col Chris Harper** as our new CO, his wife **Helen** and family **Jonathan, Eleanor** and **Matthew**. We hope they will truly enjoy their time in Krefeld.

We were lucky enough to have the Corps Band here to play for our Change of Command Parade on 16 September. We were doubly fortunate as not only did they Play Retreat for us on 14 September following our Regimental Cocktail party but they also played at a 'Songs of Praise' Service held on the 18th. It was this Service which rounded off our fortnight of events. Our thanks go to the Director of Music **Capt D. F. Wall**, his Band Sergeant Major and to the band for their superb performances. I should also make a mention of the Jazz band which played too.

The Master of Signals presenting the LS&GC to Sgt Barlow flanked by Sgt Peet and WO2 Griffiths (RA SSO Staff)

The citation party—*Left to Right*—SSgts Staynings, Singleton, Lt Prodger, Sgt Griffiths and SSgt Parry-Davies

The passing of command—Maj Gen P. R. Davies passes the symbolic flag to Lt Col C. R. Harper now CO of 16 Sig Regt. Cpl Hurd looks on

Lt Col D. J. Lowe reviews the Regiment for the last time. *From Left to Right*: Maj P. King OC 2 Sqn, Maj Webster (Escorting Officer), RSM (obscured again!) Lt Col D. J. Lowe, HQ and 2 Sqn

Girls of No 4 Gd on parade—Lt A. Gordon and the Adjutant Capt 'Roddy' Nicholson

SUCCESSFUL BOARDSAILING SEASON

Boardsailors, collectively known as Team Pirana, have every right to feel proud of their sailing achievements this season. They have won every team trophy at every championship they were eligible to enter. To list individual results would take up far too much space.

The list of successes are:-

Royal Signals Championships	Winners and Runners-up
RCZ Championships	Winners
BFG Championships	Winners
Royal Signals (BAOR) Championships	Winners
BAOR Championships	Winners and Runners-up

This achievement as far as we can determine is a first in the sport of Boardsailing, and a record that will be extremely difficult to better.

The ladies are certainly making their presence felt in this fast developing and highly competitive sport.

Pte Babs Rogerson	1988 BAOR Champion
LCpl Sharon Mallice	1988 BFG Champion

Cpl 'Geordie' English gybes a mark during the R Signals BAOR Championships at The Dummersee

KAPE TOUR

With a brief to 'Keeping All the Public Entertained' **Lt Martin Prodger** headed off to the previously unexplored land of Eastern District to conduct his recce and to commence planning for the KAPE Tour to be run in July 1988. As the KAPE file thickened, the tour programme crystalised and the preparations required increased.

Once the recce had been completed, the KAPE Team was then chosen, the criteria were age, experience, trade and confidence. Good looks also played a part. How **Sgt Young** managed to fill the place of 2IC remains a puzzle to this day. The team consisted of:

Lt M. Prodger	**KAPE Leader**
Sgt Young	**KAPE 2IC**
Cpl Burns	**Admin**
Cpl Hurd	**Diarist**
LCpl Chapple	**PTI**
LCpl Ross	**Technician**
Sig Clarke	**Powerman**
Sig Clarke	**RR Op**
Sig Flemming	**Coy CP**
Sig Smith	**RR Op**
Sig Terris	**HF Comms Link**
WCpl Burwell	**Photography**
WCpl Taylor	**Finances**
WPte Stenner	**Publications**

The Team assembled one week before departure to the UK, to gather together vehicles and equipment required for the tour. After dispersing from a 'happy hour' on Friday evening, it reassembled at 19 Inf Bde HQ Sig Sqn, bright and early on Monday morning. A few days collecting equipment from the Royal Signals MDT was followed by a one-day brief at the Army School of Recruiting, Sutton Coldfield. This is where we found out who in the Team was good at digging holes for themselves, rhetorically speaking. **WCpl Debbie Burwell** will not be attending Question Time this year.

After a final check of the whole display, the big day finally arrived and we were off to the Southend Airshow for our first venue. A special thank you to the elements for flooding our display and for trying to blow our tent into the sea. The Southend hostelries were very helpful in the provision of much needed friendship and refreshment. **Sig Andy Young** had a 'raving time'.

The next venue was Pleasurewood Hills American Theme Park, Lowestoft. The Team set-up a large fully cammed display consisting of a slide show, a Coy CP, Trades and Information stand, together with a host of other interesting features concerning Royal Signals. The days were long and tiring and literally thousands of children beseiged the display. The weather had changed dramatically and forced the off duty members of the Team onto the local golf course. **Lt Martin Prodger** won the match, but fell asleep befoe he could drink his prize at the 19th.

After a sad farewell, to 'Woody Bear', king of the park, the Team departed for the Brentwood Tattoo. With much appreciated help from **SSgt Billy Watts** and his band of merry helpers from 36 Sig Regt (V) the display was quickly assembled. About 3,000 people attended and many commented favourably on the professionalism of everybody in the Team.

After a week of fast food and fast moves, the Team was in desperate need of some decent food. On the advice of **LCpl 'Pete' Chapple**, a restaurant named Clowns was chosen for evening scran (the name bears no resemblance to the way the Team behaved). 'The biggest portions of food in the UK must be served here' remarked **Lt 'P'**, ordering a banana split that he could not finish.

After a day of maintenance, rest and recuperation, the Team headed North again to the Leicester area for the highlight of the tour. An HF Communication link was set-up between Leicester Town Hall and Krefeld Rathaus, so that the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Oberburgermeister of Krefeld could exchange greetings. Communication was established strength 5 with the Leicester end, working on a 4m whip. The OC could now have the braid unfastened from his ankle as the vertical wire had not worked. All this had been carried out using an FFR, however, the Team employed a TSB of a PRC 320 manpack, which had also been tested and proven. After the Mayor had finished, his first words were 'My, wasn't the line clear today!' He then had to dash back to the office. This event was doubly significant in that the twin towns of Leicester and Krefeld had strengthened their links and this was to be the last time that 16 Sig Regt had the resources to deploy an HF capability.

Thanks must go to **SSgt Orange** and his men, who helped set-up the link from Krefeld and who did such a good job.

Over the next three days, the Team visited six different schools. The response was always enthusiastic and was generally felt that the greatest impact was made during school visits of this kind. **LCpl Jim Ross** (ex boy Sergeant Major) was offered the chance to teach drill at King's College School in Cambridge. It was only after a chaotic, but fun five minutes that he discovered that the class were not professional soldiers. A display at a school fete in Peterborough was notable for the contribution made by **Sig Flemming** and **'Stevie' Clarke** who were volunteered for the ducking stool. Profits at this stall rocketed. The boss then took an impromptu swim.

Lealands School was one of the last school visits during the programme and it was here that the Team was visited by the Regimental Colonel, **Col M. L. W. Jennings** R Signals. For some reason the Team managed to succeed in smashing all previous set-up records—time taken only 20 minutes. **LCpl 'Smudge' Smith** made many a new friend with his Land-Rover rides. He was to become famous throughout the Tour for giving everybody he met a ride.

After two and a half weeks on the road the Team was tired and a day set aside for rest was enjoyed by all. Everybody approached the last venue of the Tour in high spirits and the three days spent at the Essex County Agricultural Show turned out to be very productive. We were located together with various other display teams from other Corps and Regiments and it was here that the Team could compare its performance—this turned out to be very favourable. After three sun soaked days the Show was over and it was time to return to Germany.

In conclusion the Regiment KAPE Tour Team would like to thank everybody (far too many to mention) who contributed in any way to the success of our 1988 tour. The general opinion of the team is thanks for a really fun time, this was an experience not to be missed. However, please don't send us again (well, not just yet anyway).

The KAPE Team is introduced to the Lord Mayor of Leicester

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

HANDICAPPED SCHOOL VISIT TO WILDENRATH

For the third year in succession, teachers and children from the Erich Kastner Schule, Singhofen, near Koblenz paid their annual summer visit to RAF Wildenrath. The visit, organised and hosted by members of 21 Sig Regt comes as a result of a meeting between the children of the school and members of the Regiment on their respective summer camps three years ago.

The school party arrived by coach at lunch time and was whisked away to the Sergeants' Mess for lunch prior to the visit to the various departments.

After an excellent meal, the children moved to Merlin School to be welcomed by the Headmaster, **Mr Alan Sudron** and members of his staff. Each child was escorted during their visit to the school by one of the Merlin School pupils. They were shown round the classrooms and the visit ended with a display of country dancing.

Next came a combined display by 12 Flight AAC and the Station Fire Section. The children divided into two groups to look around the displays, all being photographed in a Gazelle helicopter and also being shown fire fighting equipment.

Unfortunately, as this part of the visit came to a close, it started to rain. However, our next port of call was under cover. It was the 'Wildenrath Bowl'. NAAFI had very kindly allowed the children to use the bowling alley for their first attempt at ten-pin bowling. The manager, **Mr Andy Minns**, was on hand to help out and give as much guidance as possible and all the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We were due next at a display by the RAF Police Dog Section for a demonstration of training but, unfortunately, due to a torrential downpour this had to be cancelled. However, NAAFI came to the rescue and the children were more than happy to stay in the Wildenrath Bowl for an extra half hour.

Eventually, everyone moved back to the Sergeants' Mess for tea, ending a most enjoyable day's visit both for the children and their hosts. Thanks are due to many people for making the visit such a success, all the departments involved, the Sergeants' Mess Manager and his staff, to Ground Photo for the pics and to the pupils of Merlin School for their hospitality.

One of the children tries out the GOCs Gazelle

GOLF TROOP

It has been a quiet time for the Troop with the usual number of sun-worshippers going off in all directions to find that all important 'Look where I've been Tan' only to discover on their return that local leave can be just as rewarding and a lot cheaper.

Several members of the Troop have participated in a variety of activities over the last couple of months especially **SSgt Jim Graley** who completed yet another Nijmegen March. He insists that he made quite a few friends and thoroughly enjoyed himself but he can't understand why there are always so many foreign persons about at this time of year and all in the same place!

Under the watchful eyes of Wildenrath Junior Gymnastics Club (WJGC) Secretary **Sgt Nev Flintham**, Coach **Marlies Flintham** and Assistant Coach **LCpl Dougie Wood** 50 Gymnasts between the ages of 4½ and 12 years completed a total of 1,750 cartwheels in under 3 hours raising over DM 2,000, of which half went to the WJGC and half to the British Amateur Gymnastics Association (BAGA) in their Centenary year.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

The Troop must say farewell to **Sgt 'Taff' Llewellyn** now known as Mr after 22 years service. Enjoy yourself as an MOD Engineer. See you when you get back over here in October as a Bielefeld based civvy. We wish **Sgt Sharpe** posted to 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, **SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullan** now WO2 posted to CPD Blandford, **Cpl Knowles** posted to 8 Sig Regt T1 Upgrading Course and finally **Capt Shawyer** posted to School of Signals all well in their future careers.

Welcome to the new Boss **Capt Williams** and **Cpl Holley**, we hope they enjoy their time with the Troop.

ROETGEN REVIEW SUMMER 1988

The last few months have been quite hectic by Roetgen standards, with several major events taking place.

Firstly, one of our civilian employees, **Frau Elisabeth Schlammer**, received a CinC RAFG Commendation on the Queen's Birthday Honours list. As any ex-members of the det will know, **Frau Schlammer** has worked extremely diligently as Roetgen for the past 14 years, putting in many extra hours and turning up for work through the most atrocious weather conditions imaginable. In fact, she is so much a member of our detachment that she has almost become a mother to some of the younger lads here. **Frau Schlammer** is due to retire at the end of October, and all the RAF Police and soldiers here will be sorry to see her leave, and wish her every happiness in her retirement.

For the past few years we have held an RAF Police working dog trials, which with all the periphery of stalls, beer stands and sponsorship, raise money for a local charity. This year the dog trials, hosted by our resident RAF Police section, and despite reduced attendance but thanks to the sterling efforts of everyone involved, especially **Sgt John Port** (RAF Police), managed to raise DM 4,000

SSgt Bob Pullan and Sgt John Port, RAF Police presenting a cheque for DM 4,000 to Herr Schumacher of the Cavitas Verband watched by personnel and friends of Roetgen Detachment, (Sgt Wood was not too sure of the dog's intentions)

for the Caritas Children's convalescent home in Aachen. The manager of the home, **Herr Schumacher**, was presented with a cheque by **SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullan** in a recent ceremony which was attended by the local press.

The Foreman, **SSgt Bob Pullan**, has now been promoted and sideloaded to Rheindahlen, and all his friends here wish him, and his wife **Lita**, every good fortune in his new job. The new Foreman, **SSgt Neil Henly**, has arrived just in time for the arctic winter, during which the det is frequently hemmed in by a wall of snow and ice for several months.

We now look forward to the SOinC visit in November, and the forthcoming det German course, during which all the det members will be able to demonstrate their dexterity of tongue and thought.

STATION FETE

New to the Troop **Cpl John Telford** was tasked with running a stall at the Station Fete on 25 June. There was, as you can imagine, a rush of volunteers to help. Thank you **Cpl Bob Geelan** and wife **Deborah**, the only volunteers before the event! However, on the day, there was no stopping **Cpl Simon Metcalf, Sig Bagguley, LCpl Paddy Keenan, Sig Bert Reynolds, Sig Ingram** from giving away coconuts and footballs to any small child with a good looking mother. The last football of the day was won by the Troop OC **Capt Gary Mason**.

The Troop raised DM 200 of which DM 100 went to the Station Charity Fund and the other DM 100 was given to the Troop who then presented it to GOSH wishing well appeal.

Cpl John 'Fatty' Telford in front of his creation

N TROOP

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Gary Mason BEM**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dave Belshaw**
Techs	**Sgt Keith Carter**
	Sgt Phil Hill
	Sgt Andy Cummings
	Cpl Simon Metcalfe
Tele Mechs	**Sgt Steve Gerrish**
	Sgt Dave James

We would like to welcome the following new Troop members: **SSgt Dave Belshaw** and his wife **Lynda, LCpl Martin Wallace** and **Sig Stephen 'Baggers' Bagguley** and hope you all have an enjoyable tour with the Troop.

We say farewell to: **LCpl Wood,** now Corporal, and **Sig 'Quasy' Meade,** now Mr. Thanks for all your hard work and good luck in the future.

4 SQUADRON (SUPPORT HELICOPTER)

DAS RITTERKREUZ

Ring Ring . . .
SSM: 4 Sqn Sarn't Major.
RSM: I've just received a letter from 4 Sig Gp.
SSM (into hand): How strange—sounds like another jiff job.
SSM (into phone): How can I help sir?
RSM: We have to supply an honour guard for the Iron Cross Association parade in Cologne.
SSM (into hand): You cannot be serious.
SSM (into phone): We'd be delighted to help sir, but . . .
RSM: There's no one else here, I need 30 men plus one officer.
SSM: I think I can find the men, but we've got no officers here, they're all either posted, absent or otherwise missing. The OCs here, but he says he can't do sword drill in his tracksuit.
RSM: Well you provide the men and I'll find some unsuspecting officer from somewhere.
SSM: Sounds like a job for OC K Troop to me, I mean the athletics season is finished sir.
RSM:*/+*/''@... Goodbye.

So it came to pass that 30 members of 4 Sqn, together with **Capt A. A. S. Harwell** of 2 Sqn, embarked one Sunday morning for the Cologne Sudfriedhof (cemetery).

The Iron Cross Association hold a memorial weekend each year in a major city in the Bundesrepublic. Each year honour guards are formed from the Bundeswehr and two other NATO forces. This year the representation was from the British and Belgian armed forces.

The memorial service, held on the Sunday, in the British War Cemetery located within the Sudfriedhof was a simple memorial service. It concluded with the laying of wreaths and the playing of the National Anthems of the three participating nations.

Members of 4 Sqn under the command of Capt A. A. S. Harwell attend the memorial service

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

On Friday 26 August **WO1 (RSM) Andy McBain** presided over a Regimental Dinner held in the RAF Wildenrath Sergeants' Mess to say farewell from the Army and the Corps to **SSgt 'Gus' Honey** and **Sgt 'Taff' Llewellyn** both after 22 years service. They were well and truly dined out and left the mess with the best wishes to them and their families in civvy street.

WO1 (RSM) A. F. McBain making the farewell presentation to SSgt 'Gus' Honey

Sgt 'Taff' Llewellyn presenting a silver cigarette box to WO1 (RSM) A. F. McBain

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP

The Regimental Battle Camp was held at Vogelsang from 3 to 16 September.

The Plan was to dig every last man out of his secure rut in Lippstadt and give him a hard, challenging two weeks. The theme of the camp was basic infantry skills, and there were three phases:

Ex Liberatos Agenda, a company NBC exercise which involved among other things, the company digging in while in full NBC kit.

Ex Harkin's Folly, an IS exercise based on a Northern Ireland scenario.

Ranges, including a night LMG shoot, an anti ambush range and a rifle assault course.

Potted sports.

One of the high points of the Camp was an excrutiating cross country run which involved a 2km uphill section.

Morale was high and wit was razor sharp, especially while the Regimental photograph was being taken. The photograph was taking so long that someone suggested that perhaps he was going to draw the picture. Immediately after the photograph the Padre, **Capt Steven Robbins** took the Regimental Service. He certainly will not forget that service as long as he lives.

There are many stories from this battle camp. One of them is the tale of the section in full NBC kit shouting up a tree at one member of the team to 'get down out of that tree immediately'! The man they were shouting at was quite confused as he had come down the tree five minutes before and was standing at the back of the team wondering what the shouting was all about!

Another memory of this battle camp will be of the phantom bugler who played something similar to Reveille every morning at 0545 hrs.

'La la la la la la'. The Padre Capt Steven Robbins leading the Regiment in song, (Regimental Battle Camp)

3 PLATOON VIEW OF VOGELSANG

OC	**2Lt Ashton**
Pl Sgt	**Sgt Fisher**

A Section	**B Section**	**C Section**
Sgt Nelson	**Sgt Sparshot**	**Sgt Nickless**
Cpl Bayfield	**Cpl Crofts**	**Cpl Turner**
Cpl McWilliams	**Cpl Barker**	**Cpl Dean**
Cpl Manketlow	**Cpl Duffus**	**LCpl Vause**
LCpl Epps	**LCpl Ince**	**Sig Virgo**
LCpl May	**LCpl Haslam**	**Sig Doyle**
Sig Brown	**Sig Monaghan**	**Sig Warburton**
Sig Eastlake	**Sig Gargett**	**Sig Flannigan**
Sig St Pier	**Sig Fieldhouse**	**Sig Welbourne**

NBC

It started and finished in high spirits, even **Sig Virgo** enjoyed it.

Gas Bags Capers was a laugh. The aim was to experience the effects of working in an NBC environment. Running around in Noddy kit on a hot day brought home the lesson after the first stand!

NUKE

Cpl Turner would like to thank **Sig Flanigan** for having claustrophobia for him. **Cpl Turner** was in the trench under the IPK asleep and **Flan** was sitting at the open end worrying for him.

The sections special thanks goes to **Sgt Hopkinson** for his amusing lecture on the NBC threat.

It was rumoured that during the trench digging stage **Lt 'Gap' Ashton** decided to try a new position in his trench. The position found, he stayed there because he couldn't get out. Hysterical laughter was heard from **Sgt Sparshot** and **Sig Virgo** to the bewilderment of the DS. They thought they'd succeeded breaking down morale! No chance!

RANGE PHASE

After the NBC Phase came the Ranges. First off was the Molotov Cocktails and Tank Overide. The Tank Overide was pleasant enough, considering the circumstances. **Sgt Nickless** was refused the sack cushioning, it was felt that he didn't need it.

Then came the Molotov Cocktails. This was a cross between bonfire night and a wet weekend. Most first timers anti-climaxed to the fact that theirs went out during flight. **Sig Monaghan** went one better. He threw it. It went out, bounced off the target, hit the ground still intact, bottle, wick and contents in one piece. Various throwing techniques were noted, some gaining better results than others even though a little unorthodox.

The Time: Very early.
The Venue: The P1 Rifle Assault Range.
The Players: B Coy, 3 Pl.
The Story:

As we prepared for battle and limbered up, we knew that this range, unlike all others, was unique. This range requires guts, stamina, control and staying power, so what the hell were we doing there you might ask? Some of the younger lads believed that a gentle jog downhill (stepping over the odd obstacle) followed by a small shoot and ending up with a stroll up-hill wasn't too bad at all. However those that knew and had experienced the 'gentle jog' sat very quiet and still with a pale shade coming over the front part of their faces.

Then it began. We took up position in our lanes, then ran forward to kitten crawl under barbed wire, up onto our feet, over a few minor obstacles, over a rope bridge, a roof top, up a flight of stairs, through an upstairs window, down to ground level and onto the first firepoint! We waited for the order to fire and prepared to shoot. But why was the range moving up and down in our sights we asked ourselves. New targets appeared, new firing positions were adopted and targets fell like mad. (We weren't going to go through all this and not hit anything). With no more targets and no more rounds we were hustled onto the road and doubled up the mountain that we had run down earlier. At the top we relaxed and tried to breathe. We were asked our verdict. Those who could talk, replied 'easy', those who couldn't just nodded.

After many ranges and many bush fires came our introduction to the SA80 firing and **Sig Eastlake** did his best to prove that you can miss with this new precision made technical piece of weaponry even with optical sights. Five out of fifteen not bad!

HARKINS FOLLY

It was an overcase morning as B Coy left on Ex Harkins Folly. After a three hour journey in cramped Bedfords the convoy was rudely awoken by a large explosion.

This was the start of a long haul to Big Wood and Uncle Bill was to throw in a few surprises along the way.

After several hours B Section 3 Pl was deployed to a VCP in a small village 'to hamper the enemy's movement'. Several hours later and no enemy so they left the village heading towards the Company harbour, where they stopped a very suspicious **WO2 (QMSI) Archer** and **SSgt Abbott** in a wanted vehicle. After searching the pair and vehicle some pyrotechnics were found but handed back to them and they were sent on their way having been told to leave the security forces alone.

Two hours later four members of B Section left for an OP. En route they bumped two enemy rovers and several terrorists. By this time the weather was taking a turn for the worse as it had been raining steadily for the last few hours. **Cpl Crofts** and **LCpl Haslam** defended their catch through two further skirmishes until reinforced by three more men. The OP lasted 16 miserable hours, heavy rain and mist adding to the problems as they had no dry kit. The OP closed and the five man team tabbed the 10km to Big Wood. As they entered the enemy once more opened fire on the patrol causing two casualties, both of which were techs, which was no great loss. As the enemy fled, they themselves came under fire from the section on their flank with a loss of four or five men.

C Section was then sent to a border incident headed by **2Lt Stocker** and **Sgt Fisher**. A devious plan was concocted to outdo the enemy. This took a 25km romp there and 15km stagger back. Casting all fear, caution and pain to the wind they set off into the sunrise (and across the forbidden zone—oops what a give-way). No sooner had they started then the heavens opened and shed its load. Twenty-five wet kilometers later we got to the observation post to find no one there. We returned to the new location, cold, wet and quite tired, only to be told that we had been given the wrong timings and should have gone two hours earlier. Such is life!

Early on the third morning the Platoon moved out on several ambushes and as chaos reigned and dawn broke, our intrepid fighters re-grouped for a well-earned brew before the final attack on a disused warehouse. Several fire fights later the warehouse was taken and endex called. The Company was then de-briefed and returned to Vogelsang.

EXERCISE NORDIC VENTURE—SAILING IN SOUTHERN NORWAY

We left Lippstadt early on 16 August by train, on our journey to Norway. The four expedition members from 2 Sqn were: **Capt Tim Wadey, Sgt Mick Sheppard, Cpl Phil Drake** and **Sig 'Tommo' Tomlin**.

At Isofjoer we joined two boats, *Thor* and *Avocet*, 18ft Cornish shrimpers. When we set out on the first afternoon *Thor*'s rigging jammed whilst setting the mainsail, and she went aground. We motored out and found a little inlet, (having put *Avocet* aground in a muddy little fiord) and swam before having our first night on board.

The next day was spent on sail drills in excellent conditions; sun and wind. In the evening we celebrated **Sig Tomlin**'s 19th birthday even finding a suitably bright pink cake—it matched his sunburnt face!

The third day we awoke to no wind, but as soon as we out out into the sea the wind got stronger, the sea rougher and it started to rain. It was however a very good day for fishing with the mackerel leaping onto the hooks. We caught and ate five. That evening was spent in Grimstadt, a town that seemed to live up to its name!

On the following day the early morning rain soon cleared as we sailed behind the islands to Arandal. The sun even came out to top up our tans later in the day, and the fish still leapt onto the hooks.

Our first sight of Arundal was a local drunkard who asked us to look after his boat—little more than a floating beer crate. A Norwegian Saturday is mad! Everybody 'cruises' in any form of car before getting drunk into the early hours of Sunday.

We entertained some locals at a late night party on the dock. On Sunday we sailed further up the coast stopping on an island soon renamed 'the mosquito coast' when we were eaten alive. We built a big fire to keep them away and sat talking until after dark.

Monday brought a very cloudy start with no wind, but after an hour and a half the wind rose alarmingly with all the effects of a thunder and lighting storm mixed with buckets of rain. We quickly changed our plans and turned around heading into Tuedesands for the night. Tuedesands was shut for the night but we found a much needed shower.

On Wednesday after a good start to the day, and reasonable winds we were becalmed and headed for a little inlet, moved to a rock, built a fire, and had a pleasant evening with a local lad joining us. When we went to bed all was quiet but at 0430 hrs we were woken by a storm, the boats crashing against each other and the rocks in a heavy swell. At the vital moment, in getting away from the rocks, *Avocet*'s engine cut out and she alarmingly started to drift onto the rocks on the far side of the inlet. *Thor* towed her out (backwards).

After motoring all the way to Grimstadt in a heavy swell and against strong headwinds we all went back to bed for the afternoon. The bad weather kept us in port that day and the next, allowing us to explore the area. We even went to the flicks to see 'Crocodile Dundee II' with 'Norgie' subtitles. We also found a real 'local' pub with plenty of expats and English speakers so we fitted in well.

On 27 we had a fast passage to Lillesands with the wind in our favour, and even met a group of sea canoeists from AMTC out in the 'oggin. The following day the wind was on our nose again and we didn't get far in five hours sailing. We headed for a sheltered inlet, only to find one of the other AMTC boats there. We stayed and had another fire, but whilst we ate we noticed the tide had gone out leaving *Avocet* high and dry; so it was up at 0430 again to pull both boats off at high tide.

The Monday found us returning to Lillesands for a final shop and shower. With the wind behind us the return journey only took an hour! It was a much needed chance to do the washing and have a shower. We set off again in the afternoon motoring back towards AMTC in a strong headwind. That evening we stopped on a little island and camped out for the last time. In the morning we slipped back into AMTC in Isefjoer to clean up the boats, hand them back and contemplate the return journey.

EXERCISE TEWBEKON TRIANGLE KENYA EXPEDITION

This summer **Lt Tony Urwin** and **SSgt Kerwyn Gilder** led a 10 man expedition to Kenya. The aim of the expedition was to conquer the third highest peak of Mt Kenya—Pt Lenana, some 4,985m high. The route was to traverse from East to West from the Chogoria Route, over the summit and down to Naru Moru. The objective for the first day was to reach the entrance to Mt Kenya National Park, but the weather closed in. With low cloud dropping visibility to 20m, and pouring rain, camp was made for the night.

Setting up camp in Kenya, (Ex Tewbekon Triangle)

Day two saw the same weather and an unplanned tour of the lower mountain areas taking us North to the 'Giant's Billiard Table' area and Mugi Hill. Poor weather and low visibility once more forced us to make camp and hope that the morning would show clear weather and some landmarks. First light saw clear weather and landmarks, but 20 minutes later saw more low cloud, rain and poor visibility. Backtracking brought us back to the Urumandi Hut with some speedy walking from our guide which left a couple of the expedition wondering if it was CFT time. Once at the hut the team made desperate attempts to dry out kit with **Sgt Daryl Skimming** providing the cooker and **LCpl 'Dai' Evans** the singed socks.

25 August saw the weather break and the sun came out for the first time in a week. The warmth was welcome and dried the kit quickly but made the eight hour 1,900m climb up to the Mintos Hut hard work. It was made harder still as the altitude also started to take its toll with members experiencing their first effects of altitude sickness.

The next three days were spent drying out on Mintos and using it as a base camp to walk out to various surrounding peaks. Various climbs were set up on MacMilian Peak and an abseil was organised over Halls Tara at the top of 'The Temple'. The Operation Raleigh instructors also taught the group self rescue techniques for rock faces and the mountain.

Having chased Hyrax, braved the sub zero temperatures and **Cfn 'Mac' MacDonald**'s smokey fires at night, the group set out for Pt Lenana via Austria Hut, where we were to deposit unnecessary kit, before the final ascent. The brilliant sunshine and hot weather of the previous three days deserted us at 4,800m as we once more hit low cloud and a hail storm. Pt Lenana and the rest of Kenya could not be seen for the rest of the day.

The final ascent was made at 0600 hrs on 29 August with a fresh layer of snow on the rock and glacier, just to round off our selection of weather. An elated party reached the top for sunrise and a perfect view to complete their aim. **Sig 'H' Harper** declared that it was his 'first and last' having slid his way to the summit.

The descent was quick as the group slid to the bottom turning the 45 minute climb into a 10 minute toboggan run. The good weather broke into rain once more for the trip through the 'Vertical Bog' approximately 6km of very wet marshland running down the side of the mountain to the Meteorological Station. Two days saw us successfully off the mountain and in Naru Moru experiencing real food or rather anything other than dehydrated rations and pasta after 10 days of a standard menu.

The second phase of the expedition was a Safari phase which took the group up to the Mira National Park in search of the White Rhino which is now a protected species. The hunt proved successful with the party coming into close contact with the Rhinos and much other game. More excitement was added when, on leaving the park, we were stopped by Kenyan bandits who demanded our water. This was handed over quickly and we managed to continue with no problems.

The expedition proved to be a great success and we hope that the tradition of Royal Signals successfully scaling Pt Lenana can continue in the future.

EXERCISE CLEARWATER III

Ex Clearwater III was a sub-aqua expedition to Norway, carried out by members of the Lippstadt Station Sub-Aqua Club, from 5 July to 20 July. The party consisted of: **WO2 (SSM) Mike Duffin, Sgt Ray Joughin, LCpls Bob Cooper REME, Steve Munday, Simon Dyson, Sig Geordie Martin** and **'Taff' James**.

We we arrived at Christiansand, we were met by **Cpl Daz Callum**, who took the diving party, along with the walkers, sailors, and canoeists, to BMTC, where we were given a briefing on living in Norway. After collecting rations and other essential stores from the bar we made our way to the campsite at Dvergsoya.

On arrival at the campsite we unloaded all the stores, had a quick look around the cabin and then checked over the diving equipment that we would be using for the next two weeks. Once all the equipment

Preparation and loading for a dive in Dvergnestangen, (Ex Clearwater 3)

had been checked, we teamed up for the shakedown dive, to enable all the divers to check their buoyancy. The first dive went well, a shore dive using an access point about 15m in front of the cabin.

Using an inflatable boat we did two dives a day, visiting different dive sites, including an excellent wreck dive where **Sig Geordie Martin** played 'chicken' with a Conger eel; the eel won. There had been a lot of talk about fish being killed off by algae. In some places this certainly seemed true, even to the extent that the visibility down at 5m was 1 or 2m due to the algae in the water.

In the evenings the site staff and campers would put on plays and sing around the campfire, and they made us very welcome. At the end of the expedition we were taken back to BMTC given a debrief and taken to Christiansand to explore the town prior to catching freds ferry back to Denmark and the start of the long journey back to Lippstadt.

EXERCISE PASS TRIANGLE 1988

Members of the Regiment found themselves doing things the hard way when they took a break from regimental routine to conquer the Alpine Pass Route. Starting in Altdorf and finishing in Montreaux on the shores of Lake Geneva, the team climbed 11 high-level mountain passes—the traditional routes of access between valleys. In the two weeks they covered around 180 miles and climbed a total of some 50,000ft.

Organisation for the expedition started around seven months before departure with the OI/C, **WO1 (RSM) Trev Johnson** having to obtain clearance, grants, cilor and deal with all the other hundred tasks required to get the expedition off the ground. He was suitably rewarded for his toil as the team passed over some of the most spectacular scenery in Europe, including the Bernese Oberland with its well known peaks of the Eiger and Jungfrau. However, the more spectacular the scenery, the more difficult it was to climb.

The team was lucky with the weather and had many fine days with the temperature in the mid thirties, producing barrels of sweat but superb views. They also suffered some spectacular thunderstorms and one or two days when the unpredictable winds forced the cloud up from the valley shrouding the mountains in thick fog and making navigation difficult. Even at this time of the year approaches to several passes were still covered in snow making some interesting ascents.

The expedition was not all sweat and toil with the route passing through a number of glittering tourist resorts of the Swiss Alps and the team spent enjoyable but expensive evenings in Engleberg and Gstaad.

As we returned our memories were of the relentless gradients, endless ascents to rock knife-edges, the treacherous scree-slopes and the many adventure stories to be retold.

When the RSM said 'Change your socks' I didn't realise he meant with each other

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

EXERCISE BOLD GROUSE 88

Ex Bold Grouse was the biennial United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF) FTX involving 10,000 Regular and Territorial personnel. This year it was held in Zealand, Denmark.

For UKMF exercises, elements of all of the Squadrons of 30 Sig Regt form a large, composite Squadron, the UKMF (Log) Sig Sqn. This encompasses everything from net radio to long haul rear links, with Bruin and landline in the middle. The headache of managing these assets within UKMF (Log) Sig Sqn falls firmly on the shoulders of OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Richard Mardo**.

The move to Denmark was by sea, aboard civilian DFDS ferries, and by road across the width of Denmark. OC V Tp, **Lt Phillipa Owens** and her Tp Sgt, **Sgt Charlie Johnson**, quickly achieved notoriety, by beating the record convoy time for the crossing of Denmark by 40 minutes. The speeding summons has been held up by the postal strike!

The majority of the Squadron was based in a disused refugee camp, a very appropriate and comfortable location! The remainder acted as Rear Link Detachments for TA units, or provided Bruin facilities, for the Alt HQ and FMA RV.

The tactical phase of the exercise was split into two: a Log exercise, exercising the large logistic element of UKMF, and the FTX, exercising all of the force, especially the Teeth Arms. A live enemy was deployed throughout the exercise. This gave our SSM and FofS, **WO2 Chris Edler** and **SSgt Lee Wookey** the chance to use their tactical training. They soon had **Cpls Tony Pope** and **Alan Tocker** teaching our two attached Officer Cadets, **Charlie Cooper** of London UOTC and **Nicky Featherstone** of Leeds UOTC, how to dig fire trenches and deploy the Ops.

Our Radio Relay det, **Cpl Moz Fisher, LCpls Digger Day** and **Jeff Collins** (attached from 1 (Aus) Sig Regt on Ex Long Look) had complained of being lonely, stuck on their high point (47m!). This was soon resolved by the visit of the SOinC. Word soon got around that the relay det provided a good cup of coffee, so they were inundated with visitors for the remainder of the exercise! Just to remind them that it was a tactical exercise, the FofS led a fighting patrol against them as well, but was surprised to find that the det was ready and waiting to ambush them. (How does this EOW work?)

We had many other visitors ranging from the Queen of Denmark to Soviet Observers, under the Stockholm Agreement. Most of them arrived by helicopter, causing **Sgt Eddie Grattidge** a few minor heart tremors, as they hovered over his antenna field before landing.

Despite the postal strike in UK, some mail did get through to us via BFPO. **Capt Mike Griffiths** was said to be employing his own private postman as he received his constant stream of letters.

The Joint Force Signal Staff (JFSS) deployed with us, commanded by our CO, **Lt Col Neil Donaldson**. Apart from calls to the Tfc Offr, **Capt Bob Wright** and his YofS, **WO2 Harry Brant**, the phone rang three times—and two of those were wrong numbers! The QM, **Capt Bill Olive**, joined the exercise as an observer, and was immediately given the take of administering the HQ. So much for his duty free and sightseeing trip!

To keep people happy an R & R day was organised to take everybody to Copenhagen. Lots of fun was had by all, but these stories, unlike the exercise are censored!

WO2 (SSM) Chris Edler and WO1 (RSM) Pete Haywood

The return trip to UK was a series of long, slow convoy moves, with long waits in between each drive. Just to add to the waits, our vehicles sailed 12 hours after us, giving us another wait when we got to Harwich. We had complained about the lack of food provided on the move out, this was rectified on the return to UK. We left the ship just after lunch, were issued with a haversack ration, and were driven to Colchester to wait, after being given another lunch! Two hours later, yet another haversack ration was issued! Even the linemen were complaining about over eating!

Sig Cranswick and Lt Owens demonstrate different loading priorities!

EXERCISE SETIA KAWAN

White	**Capt Jon Dakin**	**Sig 'Jas' Garvey**
Satcom	**Sgt Tom McKay**	**Sig Phil Hewish**
Crew	**Cpl Steve Marshall**	**Sig Eddie Ewards**
	Cpl Bri Croxford	**Cpl Paddy McMullan**

During mid August a band of merry men from A Tp 1 Sqn left to enjoy the excitement and bright lights of Hong Kong prior to deploying on Ex Setia Kawan in Brunei. Instead of having a brief 24 hour stopover in Hong Kong, as planned, we were forced to stay a further 48 hours, due to delays caused by the exercise aircraft. **Sig Eddie Edwards**, not long out of training, was deploying on his first exercise. Meanwhile **Cpl Steve Marshall** and **Sig Jas Garvey** who formed the advance party, taking out the Satcom equipment, were waiting in Brunei and had been there for 10 days. They lost no time in sight-seeing. **Cpl Marshall** has managed to swell his Tee-Shirt collection.

Once in Brunei the exercise progressed smoothly with few upsets or surprises. The Satcom detachment proved a valuable tool especially to the Royal Navy staff who used our equipment to control the live firing Harrier support from HMS *Ark Royal*.

Our return from the exercise took us via Hong Kong again. However with everyone's wallets definitely slimmer a quieter time was had by all. The exercise was a great success as far as 30 Sig Regt was concerned and the crew had an extremely enjoyable deployment.

RIT '88

Planning for the 1988 season began in late 1987 when volunteers were called for to fill all positions in the team. **SSgt Dave Hughes** was team leader, and by the start of 1988, two of the old team, **Cpl Paul Perrott** and **LCpl Chris Morton** were back in the fold, and were soon joined by **Sig Billy Bingham** and **Chaz George**. The 'tech' slot was to be filled in rota by TM Tp, and **Cpls 'Sootie' Souter, Nick Semple** and **Paddy McMullan** all spent time on the team.

After the collection of all necessary equipment and the purchasing of a new set of display boards (thanks to RHQ in London) the team was ready to attend the one day KAPE Team Course in the School of Recruiting in Sutton Coldfield. Prior to this, the team leader changed, and **SSgt Dave Hughes** departed and **Sgt Bob Hay** took his place on the RIT. The course was interesting, and the sight of **Sig Billy Bingham** and **Cpl Paul Perrott** answering questions on TV added to our enjoyment.

The season started in Cornwall down at Flambards Theme Park in Helston and from there the teams visited various spots throughout SWDist and by the time they visited Swindon in mid-June they had changed leaders again. **Sgt Bob Hay** was promoted and sent off to 7 Sig Regt and **SSgt Dave Hughes** was recalled to the team. The team once more was moved around the 'area' as far north as Gloucester and as far west as St Agnes, and even back to Helston again. We also managed two and a half weeks on the South Coast in the Torbay area, and it was here that we had three noticeable firsts. At Bovey Tracey **Cpl 'Sootie' Souter** became the new town crier, our Combat Teddy Bear took the 'best dressed teddy' award at the same location, and whilst in Paignton we actually had our two days of summer, it never rained once.

Regimental Information Team at the end of a very successful Tour. The Theme this year was 'Singing in the Rain'

Sig Billy Bingham explaining to his ardent young admirers, how Sig 'Teddy' helps him through the night exercises

True to form though, the mid Somerset Show at Shepton Mallet was wet, to say the least. In fact the sight of **SSgt Dave Hughes** in the transit on the end of a tow rope probably brought the only smiles to the teams' faces all day. After this, it was slight variation to our routine when we went into Wales to visit Tredegar and then Swansea, again in the rain, finishing our season on Bank Holiday Monday.

Wherever the team went it made new friends, and introduced the Regiment's men and equipment to a lot of people who previously knew nothing about the Army, let alone the Corps. Hopefully this will mean that some of the people who saw the stand will consider a career in the Signals!

And now as the team splits up, **Cpl Paul Perrott** is posted to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **LCpl Chris Morton** is leaving the Regiment, after an exercise in Denmark, and **Cpl 'Sootie' Souter** is back to TM Tp to play Army Hockey in America, **Sig Billy Bingham** is back with his troop and a trip to Malaysia and **Sig Chaz George** is going back to 2 Sqn via British Telecom.

SSgt Dave Hughes is staying on the team, to refurbish the show and prepare next year's programme. He also has to start looking for next year's team members, so if you fancy a season showing off the Regiment and are good at your job, can pass an interview with our 'Eagle Eyed attention-to-detail' Training Officer, **Capt Harry Lund**, there could be a vacancy for you!

TM TROOP

The TOT, **Maj Bill Kent** has never been known to refuse an extra club in his bag. He therefore eagerly accepted the offer of **Mr Alan Morgan**, the careers officer of Blandford Upper School, to take four lads on for work experience.

The FofS, **WO1 Bob Thompson**, organised a simple yet effective programme for them which would give them a good feel for and flavour of life as a soldier technician.

The lads, obviously forewarned, came in pairs and spent a week in the Troop. The first two were **Kevin Choules** and **John Morrison** who is the son of **WO2 Campbell Morrison**, the FofS of 2 Sqn. They were followed by **Philip Freudenfeld**, son of an ex-member of the Corps and **Stephen Mower**, son of **RQMS (sticks and shirts) Mower**.

They thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They followed equipment from receipt into R and I, through the appropriate workshop, repair, stores replenishment, out inspection and return to the user. They helped to set up stations for functional checks including the activation of a ground satellite station. In addition, they ran, took part in sport and a limited amount of military training. The week's experience was over far too soon for them. We certainly enjoyed having them and we hope they learnt much from the experience. We are hoping to host more next year. The techs certainly believe the girls should be invited too!

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

Focus this issue, is on 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn (V) located at Clooney Base, Londonderry, BFPO 807, and 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V) located at Chesser Crescent, Edinburgh.

69 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Jimmy Woods**
2IC	**Capt George Wylie**
AFHQ Tp	**Lt Tom Finlay**
NIRGHQ Tp	**Lt Gillian Bingham**
OC RRTT	**Capt Jim Sims**
PSAO	**Capt Dave Roy**
SSM	**WO2 Hughie Lynch**
PSI	**SSgt Steve Parry**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Maj Jimmy Moore MBE, handed over command to **Maj Jimmy Woods** on 22 May during the Hitler Line Parade—an annual event in Derry which commemorates North Irish Horse participation in the Monte Cassino Battle 1944. **Maj Moore** leaves the TA after 30 years service in the same Squadron. The Squadron wishes him a happy retirement but it is understood he is shortly to take up an appointment with the Army Cadet Force! **Maj Woods** joins from 40 Sig Regt (V). We welcome him and wish him a successful tour.

Maj Jimmy Moore 'on his high horse' on retirement

EXERCISE PIED PIPER

The Squadron again took part in the annual TA in Ulster Military skills competition last April. The competition, held over a fine but windy weekend at Magilligan training camp, involved comprehensive testing in the following—shooting, fitness, NBC drills, AFV recognition, camouflage, map reading, voice procedure, junior command. Although primarily an Infantry oriented exercise, the competition provided good military training value. The Squadron team came tenth out of twenty teams and managed to beat its old rivals—40 Sig Regt (V).

LCpl Becky Johnston sorting out the compo with LCpl Elaine Ogg, Lt Fiona Farquharson and Pte Heather Robertson giving a hand

SHOOTING

The Squadron won the Regimental Skills at Arms Competition held at Barry Buddon in March this year. The prize was a magnificent challenge shield first presented for shooting in 1903. The shield is proudly on display in the Sergeants' Mess at Clooney Base.

EXERCISE CASSINO CHALLENGE

In July this year a party of 45 soldiers, mainly from 69 Sqn, went to the Abruzzi region of southen Italy to take part in a leadership and adventure training exercise. Most of the party drove out using civilianised military transport. An advance party with **WO1 (RSM) Steve May, WO2 Rab Campbell** and **SSgt Steve Parry** set off four days before in a civilianised van, complete with all stores. The journey was tiring, particularly for the RSM who did all the cooking and **SSgt Steve Parry** all the eating. **WO2 Rab Campbell** was amazed to find that **SSgt Parry** only took time out from eating to shower and his desire to find a shower at every stop added much time to a very long journey.

The main party, under command of **Capt George Wylie**, was let loose on the continent in four mini buses after driving from Londonderry and partaking in two cruises, Belfast to Liverpool and Dover to Calais. The OC **Maj Jimmy Woods** had so much confidence in his drivers that he travelled by private car. Exploits and tales of the journey abound but nobody believes the one about **Cpl Billy Keys** and the naked lady driver. They all arrived safe and sound at the base camp which can only be put down to the luck of the Irish.

Lt Fiona Farquharson from 52 Lowland Sig Sqn led a small party by train to the base camp at the village of Opi in the heart of the Abruzzi National Park, which was a sleepy, quiet, tranquil camp site. **LCpl Becky Johnston**, our cook, soon changed that, but instructions from 'mama' our genial and very large camp site owner on how to conduct an Italian siesta curtailed the lunch time admin area 'ghetto blaster'.

Split into groups, four activities, water sports, abseiling, cycling, mountain leadership were undertaken as well as a visit to some war graves.

North Irish Horse Graves at the foot of Monte Cassino

CYCLING

Led by **SSgt Steve Parry** the object was to cycle the route taken by the North Irish Horse from their concentration area at Lucera to the Hitler Line. Changes in the infrastructure and the danger from Italian drivers made it impossible to follow the exact route, but the distance taken was the same. Reports from the cyclists were that sunburned and saddle sore they reached the destination at Sora, cycling over 200 miles uphill, well that's what they said, stopping at Cassino to take part in a remembrance service. Weather was fine and roads were smooth, however, rumours of **Pte Elaine Neely** speaking a language that was not Irish, English or Italian, when cycling into a ditch was not believed, but later confirmed on the abseiling.

ABSEILING

Run by **WO2 Rab Campbell**, participants were dismayed to find they had to tie their own knots and conduct their own safety. The

lesson on safety techniques was listened to and learned with much concentration and in the afternoon the first abseil was approached somewhat gingerly. Once confidence was gained however abseils of 60ft and 30ft were tackled with consummate ease. The final abseil down 80ft into the river Sangro was done by all groups, but the exploits of the abseilers echoed around the walls of the admin tent well into the night over a glass of Italian plonk.

Sig Kev Kelly about to go over the edge

WATER SPORTS

The water sports consisted of two races and the practice involved in preparing for both. A large bridge spanning Lake Barra was chosen for a canoe and raft race where participants had to negotiate the pillars of the bridge in Slalom like fashion. It's fair to say the canoe race was approached with a good deal of competitive spirit. However, the construction techniques in the raft building ensured that in most cases rafts fell apart. This was amusing for the competitors but a bit nerve racking for **WO2 Rab Campbell** and **Sgt Bertie Orr** the safety officers.

MOUNTAIN LEADERSHIP

The most arduous of the activities was run by **WO1 (RSM) Steve May**. Four groups were tasked to climb ridges in excess of 6,000ft. The weather was a 'mixed bag', ranging from very hot for Groups A and C, to gale force winds and showers for Group B, torrential rain and large marble sized hail stones for Group D. The weather, however, did not detract from the completion of the tasks. The groups climbed 11 peaks in excess of 6,000ft. Group B being the only group who, due to the weather, never accomplished the scaling of a peak. Group A, had the problem of a heat exhaustion case and **Pte 'Spider' Lennox** continually knocking over the water. Group C climbed the highest peak, Monte Petrose, 2,175m. Group D, had the worst weather, quote from one member 'you can't get exposure in Italy in August'. Wrong!

Sig Steve McVey, Chief Instructor WO1 Steve May and OCdt Stephen McKay

The exercise came to a close all too quickly. The Italian camp site regulars gave us a party with pasta and vino in abundance. Certainly it was a great experience for a TA Home Defence Regiment to take part in such an exercise. Much experience was gained and many memories will remain. News of the exercise has been passed round Ulster and we look forward to seeing young men and women 'flocking in ' to join.

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON
by Maj Alasdair McGillivray

We welcome **Maj Alasdair McGillivray** to the Squadron as our new OC. He is aged 35 and is a school master in civilian life. He brings a wealth of experience with him from 'the west' and we wish him a successful tour in command.

MORE HARD WORK

61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn started the new training year determined to get bounty qualifications done as quickly as possible. The Squadron has been running, suffering from gas, and firing personal weapons. We've also done first aid—with a little help from our friends at 205 (Scottish) General Hospital RAMC(V).

In amongst all this hard work, we managed to fit in our annual visit to the Boys' Brigade West Lowland Hike. As usual we provided safety communications and this year we entered a team for the national event.

Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE, Comd 2 Sig Bde, joined the Squadron for an evening's training in June. He learned all about the mobile communication troop and gave us some useful advice about transportable Tass terminals.

At the Regimental open day, 61 Sqn repeated last year's success and became Champion Squadron. Well done to all those who took part in the drill competition, cross country running, canoeing and .22 shooting.

FUN?

During the first half of every year **Capt Willie Barron**, OC Mobile Comms Tp disappears 'down south' for various weekends. While there he takes part in training for the CIOR Military Pentathlon Squad. Fresh from this year's experiences, he writes:

'The 41st Military Pentathlon Competition, sponsored by the CIOR (Congress of Allied Reserve Officers) was held by RMA Sandhurst in July. The UK squad was made up of six three-man teams competing against teams of officers from the reserve forces of the NATO alliance, a total of 45 teams.

The Pentathlon events consist of: shooting—each member of the team firing either pistol, SMG or rifle; obstacle run—20 obstacles on a 500m NATO standard course; obstacle swim—50m over and under obstacles wearing issue clothing (minus boots); orienteering—as a team carrying issued weapons; military skills; target indication, range estimation and general throwing accuracy.

Traditionally the Americans and the Norwegians lead the competition and this was the case yet again this year, with the UK teams finishing 7th, 14th, 21st, 22nd, 32nd and 35th. UK team 4, however, won the prize for the best novice team, pleasing everyone in the UK contingent.'

Next year the competition will be held in Germany and **Willie** hopes to see more 'young' officers from the Corps at the squad training, which resumes in February 1989.

FUN!

The social event of the year took place in Dunfermline, when **Sgt 'Jeff' Jephcote** married **Sgt Helen Anderson**. They were married in the splendid setting of Dunfermline Abbey and **Helen** was attended by eight bridesmaids and a page boy. **SSgt 'Camy' Payn** (now WO2 SSM) was **Jeff**'s best man and, as well as getting **Jeff** to the church on time, he entertained the guests with his speech at the reception (copies can be obtained in a plain brown envelope from . . .). **Jeff, 'Camy'** and the ushers looked very smart in their top hats and tails—a far cry from what they normally wear on a Saturday afternoon. Those members of the Squadron who had been on the ranges all day joined in the celebrations at the evening reception. Back on the ranges the next day, there were a few sore heads! The whole Squadron send their best wishes to **Helen** and **Jeff**.

COLONEL K. LLOYD

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of **Col Ken Lloyd**, Adjt of 61 (Mixed) Sig Regt (TA) 1949-52, later Chief Signal Officer (Scotland) and Honorary Colonel 32 Sig Regt (V).

Col Lloyd was a much respected friend of the Squadron. He and his wife **Margaret** (formerly of 61 Sig Regt) kept in close contact with current members of the Squadron and the 'old and bold'. We have great memories of their association with us. The Squadron extends its sympathy to **Col Lloyd**'s family.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

FREEDOM PARADE AT KNOWSLEY

On Sunday 7 August the Regiment exercised its right to the Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Knowsley. This was the first time since being granted the Freedom in 1980.

The occasion was highlighted with a parade by representative troops from all four Squadrons, based at Liverpool, Manchester and Chester.

The preparations for the event had started some months back with regular rehearsals under the RSM, **WO1 N. G. Brown** (who went greyer by the minute), No 2 dress fittings and a weekly head count of who could make themselves available on the day!

On the day however, as is the TA custom, all went well, with brilliant sunshine, an excellent turnout and an air of pride as the parade led by the CO, **Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner**, wound its way through the streets of Knowsley with bayonets fixed and the sounds of 34 Sig Regt (V) Band filling the air with military marches.

Prior to the march past the Mayor, Councillor **Fred Curran** inspected those on parade accompanied by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, **Col J. G. Bryson OBE TD JP DL LLM**, the Chief Executive of Knowsley, **Mr Richard Penn** and the CO, **Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner**.

The Regiment marches past giving a salute to the Mayor of Knowsley and the Vice Lord Lt of Merseyside opposite the Huyton Civic Suite

On completion of the inspection a medal presentation was conducted by the Master of Signals, to the following officers and soldiers of the Regiment: **Maj C. F. B. Millar TD WRAC**—Territorial Decoration, **Capt J. M. C. Lechmere TD**—Territorial Decoration, **WO2 J. P. Slamon**—Efficiency Medal, **Sgt D. P. Penfold**—Efficiency Medal and **Cpl C. L. Wood**—Efficiency Medal.

The march through Knowsley then took place and finished with a General Salute given outside the Civic Suite to the Mayor, the Chief Executive, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and the Master of Signals.

The Master of Signals presents the Territorial Decoration to Maj Catriona Millar TD WRAC, with Capt Jim Lechmere TD, also a medal recipient

Cpl Chris Wood from 80 Sig Sqn (Chester) receives his Efficiency Medal from the Master of Signals

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Other senior guests were the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, Sec NW of England and IOM TAVRA **Brig I. R. D. Shapter**, Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) **Col M. S. Louden** and Comd WRAC NE/NW Districts **Lt Col J. M. Roulstone WRAC**.

After the parade a reception was held in the Civic Hall for representative members of the Regiment, with the remainder of personnel returning to their respective TA Centres for a celebration buffet.

All in all the day was a huge success which was enjoyed by the Regiment and the people of Knowsley and was summed up in the Mayor's address, when he said 'Since local government reorganisation in 1974 a very special relationship has developed between the Regiment and the Authority, which I know will long remain'.

ARU AT HOLCOMBE MOOR

This year's ARU was carried out at Holcombe Moor over the weekend of 24-25 September in the form of a Patrol Competition. The Inspecting Officer was **Col M. S. Louden**, Comd 11 Sig Bde (V).

Thirteen stands were established varying from First Aid to Section Attacks and were designed to test the skills of the teams to their limit.

Ten teams took part, three from HQ Sqn (Huyton), two from 42 Sqn (Manchester), three from 59 Sqn (Liverpool) and two from 80 Sqn (Chester).

The Brigade Commander visited all the Stands over the two day period and was able to assess the effectiveness of the Regiment's volunteer soldiers in overcoming the tasks set.

Although the weather on Saturday was fairly tolerable, prior to the weekend downpours of rain and high winds had left the area in bog-like conditions which made some of the tasks doubly difficult. Sunday morning brought in fog and more rain which curtailed firing on the range and upset some of the marking. However, undaunted by the weather, the teams concluded the competition at 1300 hrs when they were fed and assembled for the prize giving.

The Adjudicator, **Maj Paul Gorford** ably assisted by **WO2 Marie Watkinson WRAC** and **SSgt (YofS) Paul Spilling** totted up the marks and announced Team 15 (80 Sqn Chester) led by **OCdt Vivian Myles** as the winners, closely followed by Team 9 (80 Sqn Chester) as runners up.

Col M. S. Louden presented the Cup and medals to the winners who by this time were dreaming of the drinks they were going to get out of OC 80 Sqn, **Maj Catriona Millar WRAC**, once they got back to Chester. Well done 80 Sqn!

SPORT

For those members who remembered the 'good old days' of an 80 Sig Sqn (Chester) football team, you will be delighted to know that a new team has been established this year under the management and coaching of **WO2 Frank Rowland. Frank** has done wonders in

OCdt Vivian Myles receives the Patrol Competition Challenge Cup on behalf of the winning 80 Sig Sqn team, from the Bde Comd of 11 Sig Bde (V)

training the team which has been entered for the NW District TA competition.

The team played its first round match on Sunday 18 September against 107 Fd Sqn RE and won by two goals to one. Scorers were **Sig Rob White** and **Brian Rule**.

The second round match is on Sunday 16 October against 208 General Hospital RAMC. We hope it can continue with its winning spell.

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

ANNUAL CAMP 1988

Annual Camp this year was split between Swynnerton in Staffordshire where we carried out Regimental military training and the South West of England where we took part in a Brigade exercise. A closely packed few days of military training included a wide variety of events. **Cpl Lyons, LCpl Flaherty** and **Pte Simpson** put teams through their paces on the assault course.

Whilst **SSgt (FofS) Butler** and **Sgt Crossland** cooled them down with raft building and canoeing and **SSgt Hardaker** warmed them up again with fire fighting. The indoor and close quarter battle range gave an opportunity for some realistic but different training. **Sgt Myers** and **SSgt Brooklyn** covered several miles in short sprints as safety NCO who under the control of **Capt Adrian Walton**, Staffordshire Regiment (V) kindly agreed to be our Range Officer. The Regimental week of camp finished with a farewell Honorary Colonels Parade held in glorious sunshine for **Col Stewart**. During the Parade **Maj Gen Birtwistle** presented **SSgt Ray Georgeson** with his BEM awarded for his outstanding work with the Regiment. He also presented Territorial Efficiency medals and awards to other members of the Regiment. For the second week the Regiment deployed to South West England as part of a 12 Sig Bde exercise and was soon spread far and wide communicating (very successfully) not only to other elements of the Regiment but also to 36 and 40 Sig Regts (V).

Councillor Heather Scott, Mayor of Darlington finds time to smile with members of 50 Sig Sqn (V) at Swynnerton

Honorary Colonel inspects 50 Sig Sqn (V)

HONORARY COLONELS

We are sorry to say farewell to our Honorary Colonel, **Col R. M. Stewart OBE TD DL** who has retired. **Col Stewart** joined 50 Sig Regt in 1961 and served with 34 Sig Regt (V) from its formation in 1967 until the end of his tour as CO in 1973. In 1981 he was appointed Honorary Colonel.

We are very proud that **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE** is to be our new Honorary Colonel.

SSgt Ray Georgeson receives BEM from Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle

MANDY LEE PRESENTATION

A year of fund raising came to an end on Saturday 13 August, when members of the Regiment presented **Mandy Lee** with a new Astra car.

Mandy had been an Officer's Mess stewardess with the Regiment until she was seriously injured in a traffic accident on her way to the Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough TA Centre in March 1987.

A team led by **SSgt George Wright** (NRPS 81 Sig Sqn (V)) and helped by **Cpls Hughes, Tipton, LCpl Grace** and **Mr Graham Hill** a member of our civilian staff set themselves the task of raising £5,000.

The money was raised through a variety of events large and small. The main ones included an auction of items donated by celebrities, sponsored runs, swims and slims, and a games night with the local Police who had raised funds for **Mandy** separately. Cowies of Redcar very kindly offered to provide an Astra Merit at cost price and pay half the cost of conversion. On Saturday 13 August the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Mike Macklin**, presented **Mandy Lee** with the keys to the car at the Brambles Farm TA Centre.

Mandy Lee receiving the keys for her car

EXCHANGE VISIT TO SOUTH CAROLINA

New Orleans, the Gulf of Mexico and Washington DC were some of the sights recently enjoyed by **Sgt Hugh Mulligan** (90 Sig Sqn) and **Sgt (now SSgt (FofS)) Brian Pollard** (49 Sig Sqn) on their recent visit to the South Carolina National Guard. They were also joined by **SSgt Tom Whalley** of 36 Sig Regt when they were attached to B Coy 151 Sig Bn at Camp Shelby Mississippi during their annual training on Ex Cosstar.

They were met at Washington and flown in **Adjt Gen T. Eston Marchant's** personal jet to Harrisburg, Mississippi. The British trio successfully completed the wide ranging annual proficiency test and were shown not only the communication equipment used by B Coy but also the full range of National Guard hardware from grenade launchers to tanks.

Off duty they were well entertained and visited many interesting places in the Southern States before returning to Washington. In Washington they were given a guided tour of the Pentagon before flying back to the UK.

During our Annual Camp we were pleased to entertain **SFC Frank Owens** and **SFC Ray Keasler** on the return half of the exchange. During the first week at Swynnerton they took a full part in our military training activities and very kindly presented the Messes with clocks and lots of individuals with their unit badges.

En route to Dorset they were able to see some of the sights in Stratford upon Avon, Oxford and Salisbury before joining us for our communication exercise. We wish them well on their return to the United States and look forward to further exchanges in the future.

NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS

WO2 Ron Garrett was dined out in true Sergeants' Mess style at Scarborough on Saturday 15 October and at the same time our new RSM, **WO1 Colin Ager** was officially 'Dined In'.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

Since Ex Calm Fence in June (the Regiment's two yearly exercise in BAOR) we have had a quiet period. We have used this period concentrating on Adventure Training and sporting activities. Our next exercise period is just around the corner. Our only combined Regiment activity was TA Sports Day.

WESTERN DISTRICT TA SPORTS DAY

The Regiment featured strongly achieving a well earned overall third place which was decided out of five sporting activities:

HOCKEY (First Place)

HQ Sqn entered a side in a six-a-side hockey competition. After a very hard series of games within the league, they gained a place in the semi finals (played four, won three, lost one). The semi final was against 5LI. At the end of normal time the scores were level, a period of extra time produced no goals so it went to penalty flicks. Needing to score for the last attempt, **WLCpl Linda Mayell** made the Captains' day **(Sgt Paul Baines)** by sneaking it inside post to put us through to the final. The final was against QOMY who had beaten us in the league. After three disallowed goals the final whistle went with scores level, a period of extra time was played, as in the semi finals no goals were scored so it went to penalty flicks, five per side. After some excellent keeping by **WLCpl Mayell** scores were level at 2—2, this meant sudden death flicks. **Sgt Tony Kelly** scored his fourth penalty flick of the day putting the pressure on the QOMY player, due to a mis-interpretation of the rules their goal was disallowed making 35 Sig Regt (V) the winners. The team played some good hockey throughout the day. The team were: Goalkeeper **WLCpl Linda Mayell** (two penalty flicks), **Sgt Paul Baines** (three goals), **SSgt Bill McNeish, Sgt Tony Kelly** (six goals), **Cpls Jim Deeming, 'Dicky' Bird** (four goals) and **WPte Bev Jones.**

RUGBY (Semi Finals—Seven-a-Side)

After a month of hard training the team got away to a great start turning on the style against 5LI. Team Captain was **LCpl Tony Skehan.** The team forgot themselves in the following game but came bouncing back to win the group. The semi-final was a close fought affair, QOMY beating us 8—4 in a game which the Regiment was unlucky to lose. QOMY then went on to beat 5LI (the team the Regiment beat in the first game) by a narrow margin.

The team can be proud of their excellent performances.

Back Row (L to R): SSgt (YofS) Chris Aslett, OCdt Graham Miles, Cpl Tony Mousley and LCpl Steve Daley
Front Row (L to R): Sgt Steve Baugh, Sig Greg Sergeant, LCpl Tony Skehan, Sig Phil Faulkner and LCpl Clive Chapman

FOOTBALL (Semi Finals)

After a poor start the footballers came back with great determination and were narrowly beaten in the semi finals.

TUG 'O' WAR (Semi Finals)

A side collected together at the last minute did well to get to the semi finals, a little more polish in their performance should produce good prospects for next year.

CROSS COUNTRY (Eighth Position)

The Regiment ran their hardest against some very strong opposition, the team have nothing to be disappointed about.

FOCUS ON REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
EXERCISE BEANO BREAK II

This year's Permanent Staff Adventure Training again took place in the Lake District based in the Swiss Alpine Club Hut, Patterdale. The one TA member who joined us was **WPte Karan Neale** who was much appreciated as she was the cook!

Activities included canoeing ably instructed by **Cpl Paul Goslin,** who insisted that you canoe under water before you tried it on the surface, and trekking led by **SSgt Pete Marsh REME** and **Maj Andy Boyle.** There were a few other adventures which the YofS, **SSgt 'Margret' Aslett** really doesn't want to talk about as the one that got away was much larger than the one he threw back.

SSgt Marsh took a group up Scafell Pike (over 3,000ft) the 'pretty' way, passing the same Tarn three times but succeeded in finding the right Pub at the first attempt!

Maj Andy Boyle, who, when challenged to orient his map, swore blind that all three Silva Compasses were unserviceable, accompanied the Veterans' group over the mountains and around Lake Ullswater.

As for the golf, the team led by **Sgt Paul Baines** got wet both inside and out trying to reach the 19th hole.

CRICKET

A joint team of 35 Sig Regt (V) and the Army Personnel Selection Centre (APSC) won the Western District Cricket League. **Sgt Allan Balderstone** started the season opening the batting and steadily worked his way down the order with a marvellous series of ducks, however he was to get his own back on his critics when he won the single wicket competition. Steady performances were made throughout the season by **RSM George Hedge** (now retired) and **Sgt Paul Baines.** Some excellent wicket keeping by Trg Maj, **Maj David Elson** (iron gloves) topped some fine fielding. **Capt John Bonnet** (APSC) was awarded best Batsman of the season.

OFFICERS V SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET

A controversial Officers' Mess team consisting of only two Regimental Officers was soundly thrashed, **Maj David Elson** forgetting to select any bowlers or batsmen. A special mention for **Sgt Allan Balderstone** who played brilliantly for his one run. Man of the Match: The Barman!

WELCOME

The Regiment would like to welcome **SSgt Daryl McCluskey** and his family. **SSgt McCluskey** will be employed in the Recruit Training Team (RRTT).

FOCUS ON HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
SNOWDON

HQ Sqn arrived at a very wet and windy base camp at the South side of Snowdon at midnight on a Friday night. The object of the exercise was to climb Snowdon by the Watkin Path, to descend following the railway and to move on to Tycross on Saturday evening for military training.

The party split into groups headed by **WO2 Dave Blackford, Lt Marshall** and **Sig Mick Noone REME,** with overall safety being administered by **SSgt Pete Marsh REME** and his LAD.

The walk was successfully completed by everyone in extremely wet and windy conditions with little complaint from the 'sherpas' **WLCpl Eileen Fox, Sig Martin Thacker** and **Cahill** and their porters. Well done everybody.

HALTON WATERMANSHIP CAMP

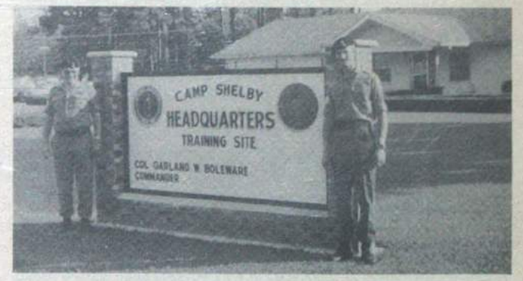
HQ Sqn arrived at a very wet Halton Bridging Camp with the river up 8ft. Conditions were unsafe to proceed with watermanship for very long. As an alternative we sampled the delights of the local hostels and a good time was had by all. On return to camp in the evening the sun came out and we proceeded with an excellent barbecue. Sunday brought a reduced level in the river and so watermanship resumed. Our thanks go to **CPO Bradley** who, although qualified to drive the Ark Royal, struggled to maintain order on the River Lune.

ATTACHMENT TO US NG
by SSgt Whalley—58 Sig Sqn (V)

Earlier this year I was most surprised when I was called into the OC's office and told that I had been selected to represent the UK on an exchange visit to the US National Guard in South Carolina. I imagined two weeks of hard, tough military training but was amazed when I was met at Dulles Airport by the Colonel of HQ South Carolina National Guard who calmly informed me that the Generals' private jet was awaiting to transport us to the exercise area!

The next two weeks provided me with a fascinating insight into life with the National Guard. Not only was there a language problem to be overcome, but the whole exercise seemed on a very casual basis. Here, the OC would be jumping up and down if the radio complex was not working after 30 minutes, but there no one seemed in the least bit worried if it took one and a half days to put right. The equipment was very similar to the radios in use within 58 Sqn and the unit I was attached to made every effort to ensure I saw as much of the different elements as possible. I was also fortunate enough to be shown how to use the gun, laser and night sights of an M60 tank. For me this was one of the highlights of the trip.

As it was my first trip to America I was shown many different places and visited New Orleans, the Gulf Port and Washington during my free time. The South Carolina National Guard was a very friendly unit and the hospitality shown to me was just out of this world. I can only hope that others will be fortunate enough to be selected to enjoy this exchange programme.



Sgt Mulligan (34 Sig Regt (V)) and SSgt Whalley in America. Absent from this picture Sgt Pollard (34 Sig Regt (V))

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 :
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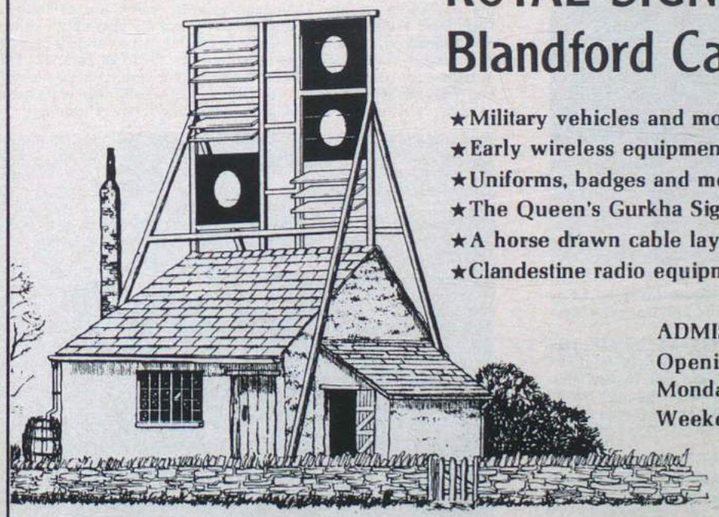

Artist's impression of the early 19th Century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1806-1825

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

RHQ

There have been several comings and goings over the past few months and now that the dust has finally settled after annual camp the following can sometimes be found at Wanstead:

CO	**Lt Col C. P. Conlon**
Adjt	**Capt J. Coffey**
Trg Maj	**Maj A. Sugdon**
RSM	**WO1 N. J. Cawthra**
MTWO	**WO1 F. McCormick**

We wish all the very best to **Maj Palmer** on his posting to MOD (PE), **Capt Brough** on posting to 8 Sig Regt and **WO1s Taylor** and **Moffatt** on their retirement.

CAMP

Annual camp has been the dominant event recently. The story is taken up by 54 Siq Sqn:

54 (EA) SQUADRON (V)

The last few weeks before camp saw much activity in the Squadron preparations for the communication exercise, together with basic training for the threatened infantry exercise were more than enough to occupy the minds of management and workers alike. Social events culminated in a Ladies' Dinner Night at Cambridge to bid farewell to **Lt Col** and **Mrs Chris Gale**. The Squadron has welcomed **2Lt Dave Watson** (yes—another one) to the helm of 707 Tp, and prepares to say farewell to **2Lt Sue Haughie** from 755 Tp Norwich. The former will no doubt be shortly brought to heel by his troop, whilst the latter will be sadly missed.

The aim of annual camp this year was to spend one week participating in the Brigade Communication Ex Further Passage II, and one week at Sennybridge undergoing further infantry training before venturing out on to the hills for a three night exercise. Ex Further Passage II in the Salisbury Plain area was a huge success, with the Squadron performing its role in a very efficient manner.

Col Seys-Phillips, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment inspects 54 (EA) Sig Sqn. The Squadron Commander, Maj Touchin and Lt Col Conlon accompany the Colonel

AROUND THE TROOPS
EXERCISE FURTHER PASSAGE II
SHQ TROOP

If OC 54 **(Maj Malcolm Touchin)** ever loses his job, **LCpl Middleton** will recommend him as Tour Guide of London, after their journey from Wanstead to the M3.

Why did **SQMS Frank Sharp** shave whilst standing on a chair? Too late to avoid Sennybridge—**WO2 Stone** broke his leg first.

Quote of the week—'I'm sure I could have got out of this somehow'—**SQMS Frank Sharp**. We never did discover which operator answers, 'Hello, switchboard. I'm only an NFQ, can I help you?

706 TROOP

706 Tp seemed to corner the market in dawn moves, and despite not having ideal locations for camouflage and concealment, achieved success from a communication point of view.

Our final site overlooked the runway at RNAS Yeovilton and was on the flight path of all sorts of aircraft, including a number of Phantoms constantly screaming overhead. At this location the troop was joined by Commcen November part of 40 Sig Regt (V), and a radio relay detachment from 34 Sig Regt (V)—thus, at one time, parts of all the Regiments in 12 Sig Bde were co-located.

Several questions arose following the discovery of **Sgt Dick Wright** on top of the Euromux with his sleeping bag?

Which line detachment takes six hours to do a 500m lay?—Is this a record **Cpl Gathergood**?

754 TROOP

754 Tp lost: one troop with several vehicles. Finder kindly return, or report its whereabouts to OC **Lt Wesley Blewett.**

LCpl Nicky Newbitt, Sig 'Baby Tech' Laws and **Pte McDowell** drew short straws, and found themselves at Commcen Lima—however, this prevented them from joining the troop's enactment of 'The Grand Old Duke of York', thanks **SSgt Bob Major.**

Meanwhile, **Lt Blewett** was enjoying a sojourn in Wales, bent on retrieving his kit, inadvertantly sent to Sennybridge . . .

755 TROOP

755 Tp started the exercise in good spirits and with its usual high morale. Communication was established with minor hiccups, whilst the troop was fed and entertained by **Cpl Pete Basted**, who found a novel way to put out fires. We hear it only works till you run out of fingers, but that the early morning light show from a No 1 burner is really quite exhilarating.

Communications and fieldcraft wise, the troop was well pleased with the performance of the Brigade—keep it up chaps!

818 TROOP

818 Tp hears that **Sgt Baker** wants to be a Corporal again—he hasn't worked so hard in ages.

Did **Sig 'Nod' Greenway** really get a field promotion to Captain? The Crabs think so, and so does the RAPC. Furthermore, can he really run the entire system from his bed? Answer—yes!

SENNYBRIDGE

The first part of camp successfully concluded, the Squadron moved to Sennybridge. Sadly, the Infantry training was severely curtailed by bad weather—but not before the Squadron had had ample opportunity to practise getting cold, wet, but fortunately not miserable in driving wind and rain. Morale remained high as the MRS's beds emptied and were refilled by those feeling that a day's peace and quiet away from webbing, large pack and sore feet would be a good idea.

Detachment Commander's Course, running concurrently, and with five Squadron members, finished with **LCpl Murdoch** passing out top. Many congratulations to him, and to the others for successfully completing the course.

A highly successful Squadron party all but rounded off this year's annual camp. This report, however, would not be complete without the publication of the Taffuligan awards, which are as follows: **Capt Dave Watson**—for being unable to read his map upside down; **Sgt Thomas**—for taking on single-handed 3 Para—and losing; **Sig Dunwoody**—for losing a very important key for three days; **2Lt Dav Watson**—for occasions and occurences far too numerous to mention and **WO2 (SSM) Chapman**—for falling over himself with enthusiasm to return a rifle, thus avoiding the remaining infantry training.

Capt Dawes, OC W Coy, briefs 2Lt Palmer during the defence phase

The Corps of Drums, 36 Sig Regt (V), led by Sgt Gebbie, marches past on the Regimental Parade at Sennybridge

Guess who? Answers to OC HQ Sqn

A LETTER FROM 44 SIGNAL SQUADRON AT CAMP

Dear Bill,

Do you ever have one of those days when things don't go exactly right? Father decided to take the Regiment to Wales—Brecon Beacons mean anything to you? It didn't to me, still doesn't come to that, but take my word for it, its not a patch on Benidorm.

Well, Bill, you know my geography—not much improved since the fourth form. But I think I'm right in saying that Wales is the hilly bit pointing towards Ireland. But there's no telling father once he's got a bee in his bonnet. We went to Salisbury, Minehead and a whole host of other remote places. Apparently it was all something to do with 12 Brig Aid, some charity or other to do with Ethiopia—you know the place, we used to call Abys thingee. With a name like that, obviously Welsh.

Anyway, we got there in the end. Father had booked us in to a little hotel called the Sennybridge Training something, underlooking a large cloud, which kept falling down and being replaced—needs fixing if you ask me. All in all a bit grim frankly, but a clubbable bunch in the Saloon bar and no strong incentive to leave it. Rooms were a bit short though, and I had to share with my man—and you know what hours these chappies keep. Up well before first gin every morning, really at times I almost didn't get my twelve hours a night. Strange chap, though—kept praying all the time.

Still, all in all not too bad. Then father had one of his things, you know how he is. Said the hotel was costing a fortune and we'd have to find something cheaper. Then one of the chaps in the Saloon bar—forgot his name but said he had trained majors. Curious hobby if you ask me, and I wouldn't back one at Goodwood—anyway, it seems he had a place up in the mountains and father could use it for a couple of days. Well, you know how he is when it comes to money, so the next thing we were tiptoeing out to avoid the manager.

You know the feeling you get when there's no tonic in the place and it's your man's evening off? Well I got it when I went out to the car father had hired—great big green thing with a canvas roof that leaked. Father said he knew the way, and either he got lost or the training Johnny was pulling a fast one. You know that I don't mind roughing it a bit—but this was appalling. Worse even than those Spanish hotels without the roofs—you won't believe it Bill but it didn't even have walls. They still hadn't fixed the cloud, it was pitch black and gusting force 10. There was no room service to talk off and all I could get on the wireless was taxi drivers or some such, all 'overs' and 'outs' and things. The carpet was institution green, threadbare and muddy, the place was full of oversized pot plants.

I didn't see father's room but I doubt it was any better. After a pretty unpleasant night (the locals said it was the worst night in 60 years!) and no prospect of improvement I put it to father straight. 'Look', I said, 'let's go back to the other place and I'll pay!'. Well, it worked and here we are again.

Father's talking of taking us abroad next year—I do wish he'd settle on Margate or Bognor: not so many foreigners and the hotels are OK.

Must go now—see you at the Club.

Yours aye—Derek

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE

Ground: Extremely boggy Sennybridge Training Area, little or no cover from howling wind and lashing rain.

Situation: Wet and muddy—but happy Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course, undergoing a fortnight of square bashing, fieldcraft, M of I and hassel from the PSI's of 36 Sig Regt (V).

Mission: To test to the limit the stamina of the students and the patience of the instructors.

Execution: Having arrived at Sennybridge Training Camp and settled in we soon realised that the course was going to be just as hard as our colleagues back at our Squadrons had warned us about.

Getting a good night's sleep was a feat in itself as our personal kit and classroom work had to be prepared and learnt for the following day before we fell into bed in the small hours of the morning only to be rudely awakened by the PTI—**LCpl Johnny Nichols**—keen to run us into the ground before breakfast.

We not only learnt to do without sleep but also about our own and others strengths and limitations.

LCpl Aidy Dequincey, good at infantry tactics but lacking in laundry skills, excelled himself by loading one washing machine with 11 sets of muddy combats (a feat in itself) and ended up with more mud stains after the wash than before.

Out on exercise **Lt Day** OC discovered his true role was to ensure that his nominated section leader **LCpl Tracy Bacon**, stayed on her feet and not in a sprawling heap as her top heavy large pack was wont to have her.

Unfortunately our four day war against the rest of the Regiment was reduced to eight hours when the weather closed in and the Regiment sustained casualties due to hypothermia.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable but hard course which we summed up in our song.

Thanks to all the PSI's of 36 Regt who made it bearable and congratulations to **LCpl Frazer Murdock** for being top student.

The Detachment Commanders Course parade

THE REGIMENT DINES OUT THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Saturday 2 July saw the Mess members gathered at Colchester for the formal Dining Out of **WO1 (RSM) Tom Taylor** after 23 years service. The occasion was held in 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Mess, and our thanks to **WO1 (RSM) Dave Simpson** for the use of the Mess and its facilities.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening . . . morning and nearly lunchtime was had with **WO1 (MTWO) Mick Moffatt** giving an in-depth speech on the RSM's 23 years service. Many skeleton's were dragged out of the cupboard, and the RSM's RSSSC report is still a talking point in the Mess.

We say farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Tom Taylor** and **Phylis** and wish them both every success in the future . . . please send us a postcard from the Oman.

We welcome **WO1 (RSM) Norman Cawthra** and **Lillian** to the Regiment.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

The Regiment has been engaged on 'Annual Camp' for the last six weeks. Camps have been Squadron based and centred upon District Exercises. Consequently the Regiment has been dispersed across the country 46 Sqn—Scarborough and District Exercises, 64 Sqn—Halton (Lancs) and District Exercises, 87 Sqn—Tregantle (Plymouth), 93 Sqn—District Exercise and Garelochhead and HQ Sqn—Garelochhead.

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Camp was in two phases. The Squadron spent the first five days at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough then departed to various locations for Ex Eastern Shield. At Scarborough the Squadron participated in various events which included sports, trade training and physical activities, including a 17 mile hike, orienteering, pony trekking, sea fishing and boating.

Capt David Rigley arranged the 17 mile stroll through the countryside and **Lt Col Steve Coltman**, CO of 38 Sig Regt and **WO1 (RSM) Don McLennan** joined the Squadron for the walk.

Lt Vanda Leary and **OCdt Dawn Rainbow** organised the potted sports and the Mayor and Mayoress of Derby, **Councillor** and **Mrs Shepley** presented the sports trophy to the winning team led by **SSgt Thelma Ward WRAC**.

Visitors at the camp included **Brig P. I. B. Stevenson** East Midland TAVR, **Lt Col J. M. Roulstone** Comd WRAC HQ NE/NW District, **Col Peter Hilton** Lord Lt of Derbyshire and members of the Royal Signals Association from Derby spent two days with the Squadron—hosted by **WO2 (SSM) Terry Hanman**.

The Sergeants' Mess also took the opportunity to dine out **Maj Terry Phillips** (previously OC 46 Sqn), now 2IC 38 Sig Regt (V).

Maj David Etherton, OC 46 Sqn, bidding farewell to the Mayor and Mayoress of Derby

SSgt Thelma Ward receives the sports trophy from the Mayor of Derby

FITNESS AND TRAINING PAYS OFF—'BRONZE MEDAL'

In September this year a notable success was achieved in the gruelling Cambrian Patrol exercise in the Brecon Beacons. The team led by **Capt Mike Philip** REME (V) with **Sgt Randall** (87 Sqn) as his 2IC, and eight other men all from HQ and 64 Sqn, supported by **Maj Bob Barnes** (OC Tactics) and two drivers managed to complete the 28 odd miles course in 38 hours.

There were 18 teams in all, our team being one of the very few to actually win a Bronze Medal. This is no mean achievement and the hard training and positive attitude paid off.

The patrol itself was not without its incidents. On night one a civilian driver turned his car over on Mynydd Du Forest Road only 50m from the patrol.

Cfn Abbey on the night crossing on the reservoir, disappeared under the water with **Cfn Blagg**'s bergen!

A very fine effort from everyone and congratulations to all who took part.

Bronze Medal Squad—1988 Cambrian Patrol Team
Back (L to R): Capt Philip, Cfn Blagg, Sig Udall, LCpl Lawrence, Sig Plant and Sgt Randall
Front (L to R): LCpls Marsden, Grant, Cfn Abbey and Sig Jackson

SAILING

An enjoyable week was spent by members of the Squadron on board the Yacht Quicksilver.

The Assistant Bosun **Colin Murby** had everybody working hard and there was plenty of good sailing weather. Over the week more than 140 miles were logged and night sailing was taught. Each member of the crew received a certificate to qualify them as competent crew members.

Quicksilver and Crew
L to R: Sig Neil White, Pte Sharon Summers, LCpl 'Benny' Bennison, Cpl Richard Corbett Capt Sally Reading, Cpl Colin Murphy (Assistant Corps Bosun) and LCpl Mick Ball

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS SUMMER BALL

The Sergeants' Mess held a very successful Summer Ball at Sheffield TAC during the end of July.

In Relaxed Mode
L to R: WO2 (RQMS) Gwen Stabler, WO1 (TA) Derrick Wilkinson and WO1 (RSM) Don McLennan

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
City of London

Some while ago we promised to report on the successes of the Regiment's TM Tp over the past year. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances this has not been possible, until now!

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE TM TROOP
Report by Capt Tim Southall and Pte Geraldine Joyce

Back in June 1986 the then CO, **Lt Col H. Grenville-Jones**, held his O Group to discuss the state of the communication equipments within the Regiment. 'Wouldn't it be nice if we could re-equip the Regiment with new transmitters as an interim solution in the short term' he said. 'Oh dear, what 's coming next?' thought the TOT, **Capt Tim Southall** (well all right then, maybe it was words to that effect!). So the plan was ironed out, and the might of RACAL, GEC and BT were brought together, and their combined powers harnessed.

The first meeting broke up with the usual cautions being assigned! **Capt Tim Southall's** first move was to send for his Foreman, **WO2 FofS Rob Hunt** (now WO1).

'Foreman, have you got our crystal ball?'.

'No Sir!, it's in the workshops for an overhaul' (heard that one before!).

'Oh dear never mind, we'll use the NATO part number for a new one'.

Joking aside it was decided to arrange with our sponsor to purchase 12 manually controlled 1kw transmitters from RACAL, a type that had never been sold in the open market. Hooray, we were in business.

Detailed planning took up to another six weeks, and Bruin cabins were obtained from Donnington. Three of them were stripped bare, and **SSgt (FofS) Al McCartney** (our Foreman PSI, now WO2), set to arrange the many stores requirements to enable us to re-fit them. **FofS Rob Hunt** was in a thinking mood by this time, expanding his many brain cells, to devise a way in which we could automate the transmitters to tune automatically. After much thought a suitable system emerged.

The cabins were rewired completely, as account had also to be made of the total power which would be drawn by all the transmitters fitted into the vehicle, and even the floors were re-surfaced.

As a result of our efforts we now have three identical cabins each with four automatically tuned transmitters. Two of the cabins were successfully used during the Regiment's Summer Camp, and the remarkable situation is that we saved, in expenditure terms, something like half a million pounds. This saving does credit to all members of TM Tp, not only did they give up much time to carry out this project, but it also demonstrates the skills, expertise and dedication of the individuals concerned, and indeed those of a Territorial Technician.

In this case: **Capt Tim Southall** (TOT), **WO1 (FofS) Rob Hunt, WO2 (FofS) Al McCartney** (PSI) (now posted), **Sgts Pete Smyth, Agge Clarke** (PSI), **John Smith, LCpls Tony Mather, Gerry Mapp, Sig Clive Robinson** and **Mick Redwin**.

We're now embarked on yet more projects, also designed to improve the communication abilities of the Regiment, and this time we're concentrating on the Regiment's receivers and field equipment.

(Since this article was written the new transmitters have successfully been deployed on exercise, and during camp, including the latest project.)

SUMMER CAMP

This years' Summer Camp has literally just finished (October). Most of the Regiment was deployed to Deverell Barracks, Ripon, for a weeks Trade Training Camp, followed by the annual exercise.

1 Sqn, along with the Bletchley Tp from 5 Sqn manned the Regimental Commcen, with 2 and 3 Sqn's manning the TRC's. Luckier members of 2 Sqn deployed to Cyprus and 3 Sqn went to BAOR. Three other Detachments (from 1 and 3 Sqn's) were also deployed to the South of England. All in all the exercise was a great success, over 250,000 groups were passed in the four days of the exercise, an average of 17 groups per minute leaving or arriving in the Commcen. The more interesting stories are just emerging!

AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS
1 SQUADRON

The start of Annual Camp saw the announcement of the latest round of promotions, and for a change, it included an Officer **Lt Mark Bretton** (the MTO) vacated his senior subaltern post to become a Captain. **LCpls Sylvester Hack** and **Nick Smith** both lost the lance to become Corporals, and the following all became Lance Corporals: **Jim Griffiths, Dave Hedges, Ann Brown, Clare Gripton** and **Sue Vince**.

On the awards side, the recipients of the two (one male and one female) Skinners awards were announced during Camp. The award, donated by the Worshipful Company of Skinners (one of the City of London Livery Companies), is presented to the junior male and female soldier who have, over the last year, contributed most to the Regiment. This year's winners are **Pte Geraldine Joyce** and **LCpl Tony Mather**, both of 1 Sqn.

And finally, congratulations to **Lt Paul Willmott,** who attained professional status in his 'other' career during camp, becoming (not, that he likes to admit it) a Chartered Town Planner and who consequently came away with rather less money in the bank than he expected, having splashed out on the champagne.

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New 3in Regulation Pattern with Straps
Any Amount Made Up as Required

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T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

VISIT BY GOC NORTHERN IRELAND

The new GOC Northern Ireland, **Lt Gen Sir John Waters KCB, CBE**, paid his first visit to the Regiment on Sunday 4 September. A Regimental exercise was taking place during his visit which gave him the opportunity to see the Regiment in operation.

His visit started with a discussion with the CO, **Lt Col I. C. Shuker** and then on to a brief on the Regiment's mobilisation and role on deployment given by the Training Major—**Maj Ian Grant**. He was then briefed on the exercise by the 2IC—**Maj Ian Henderson** and TOT—**Capt Joe Long**. The visit continued with a visit to the RCP and Commcen Echo where he met Squadron Commanders—**Majs Gerry Fleming** and **Dave Baxter**. After visiting the Sergeants' Mess, he was entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess where he had the chance to chat to all the Regimental Officers.

OC 85 Sqn, Maj Gerry Fleming, demonstrates his ability to use both hands at once while inspecting the grass

How! GOC greets Lt Cathy Sutherland American indian style

YOUNG OFFICERS IN TACTICAL FLYING ADVENTURE DURING ANNUAL CAMP

Thursday 16 September saw **Lt Davey Given** and **OCdt Belinda Craig** take to the 'Wild Blue Yonder' at RAF Chivenor when they both managed to arrange a passenger trip on a Hawk Jet Fighter on a tactical training Sortie. **Dave**'s account of his experience that evening during a cocktail party was graphic in detail. However, encouraged by **Belinda Craig**, the RMO—**Maj Robbie Kinnear**, arranged a flight for the following Wednesday. On arrival at RAF Chivenor, the prospective passenger was greeted by **Sqn Ldr Dick Fallis**, OC Flying Wing who arranged a full flying passenger medical for the RMO accompanied by **Sgt Dave Lightfoot RAMC**, there to sweep up the pieces.

Following the medical, it was on to Ops room of 151 Sqn and introductions to the pilot—**Flt Lt Mick Futton** who arranged kitting-out with helmet, oxygen mask, G suit, flying overalls, life jacket, leg restraint straps, gloves, boots and knife. A video on safety and life-saving equipment followed, including use of the ejector seat and parachute in the event of the pilot ordering 'eject, eject'. Back in the crew room there was time for two rounds of cheese and onion sandwiches, a banana and two cups of coffee recommended before the flight.

So with a sick bag tucked safely in both thigh pockets of the flying suit, it was time for transport to the Hawk sitting on the concrete apron. After climbing into the rear pilot seat, the ground crew aided in securing the passenger by means of the ejector seat harness and leg restraints, oxygen supply and G suit attachments were made good, inter-communication established with the pilot and the canopy closed. With safety pins removed from the ejector seat and canopy stowed appropriately, it was time to taxi on to the runway and all clear for take-off.

The sortie was flag-towing for live firing practice by the other members of the Squadron, an exacting exercise watching fighters 1,000m to the rear, fire and climb away. This completed, the flag was dropped during a passover the airfield and there followed an exhilarating flying experience of loops, rolls, dives and climbs with pulling forces up to 6G, all triggered by the passenger's simple request: 'Now, make me sick' and the pilot's reply: 'So you really want to be sick?'.

The flight ended with a low pass over Fremington Training Camp finally landing at RAF Chivenor and with final thank yous and goodbyes to the crew we completed a memorable day.

Second thoughts! Doctor gets strapped in

'CHARLIE' TROOP GOES TO CAMP 1988—SCRIBE
by Lt Hiliary Bustard

On Friday 9 September 15 volunteers of 'C' Troop, 66 Sqn, reported to Clonaver TAC to go to Fremington for Annual Camp. During the first week, **Cpl Janet Coates** successfully passed her HGV 3 and 66 Sqn was kept up-to-date by **LCpl Karen Walker**'s daily briefings! During the Regimental Parade, the Honorary Colonel—**Col Wilson**, presented **Cpl Davey Gillespie** with his Efficiency Medal and **Cpl Sandie Doggart** with the shield for best female soldier. Friday evening saw the troop, less two who were on duty, invading the Royal and Fortescue Hotel, Barnstaple, for a 'free' dinner night. After an enormous meal, and a few drinks the troop turned its attention to the local night club where we met up with, what seemed to be, the rest of 40 Sig Regt! A good night was had by all! Thanks to **SSgt Jim Murray** and **Sgt Ernie Cahoon** for organising the evening and for looking after the finances.

During the second week the exercise saw 'C' Troop split into five dets. The two anchors at Commcen E consisted of **Cpl Diane Brennan** with **Sig Andy Taylor**, the phantom cartoonist, and **Cpl Davey Gillespie** with **LCpl Roberta Campbell** and **Pte Mandy Muir. Pte Muir** struck up a 'friendship' over the airways and was most delighted when 'he' made a special trip to CCE to visit 'her'. However **LCpl Weir**'s attempt to sell her off for 17p came to nothing! **Cpls Janet Coates, Sandie Doggart** and **Sig Geoff McClean** were at AMC 73 (colocated with CP 40); while **LCpl Karen Walker, Sig Billy Blackley** and the attached ED, **Cpl 'Squeezer' Lemon** were the upwardly mobile RR401. Last, but by no means least, a special mention must go to **Cpl Stevie Browie** who, along with his beloved Triffid, started off the exercise as RR401 but somehow managed to end up at Commcen November! Well done to all and thanks for the 110% effort throughout the exercise.

Due to the competence of the operators 'Trouble Shooter No 1' **SSgt Jim Murray** was able to swan off on recces with **Capt Ray Scott**, the 2IC of 66 Sqn and 'Trouble Shooter No 2', **Sgt Ernie Cahoon** was sent to sort out the slurry pit at AMC 73! Troop OC—**Lt Hilary Bustard**, when not on Op duty, spent her time making social calls around the wagons scrounging tea, coffee, toasties, prawn crackers or anything else that was on offer! A special mention must go to **OCdt Belinda Craig**, on attachment from Birmingham OTC, who worked extremely hard and had to put up with a lot of 'stick' as well! Life at CCE was so good that RR402 consisting of **Cpl Hume, Sig Goody** and **Fleming** and RR362 manned by **LCpl Hill** and **Sig Barnes** came to join our radio village! All enjoyed our 'waiting for closedown' barbecue held on the Thursday evening.

As far as 'C' Troop was concerned the exercise was a complete success—(apart from one slight hiccup). This was when **Cpl Davey Gillespie** had a slight disagreement with a low flying branch and decided to leave his vehicle mounted mast on the track! Luckily enough the skin of the vehicle wasn't punctured and only the top section of the mast was bent!

Being in the priviliged position as 'Charlie' Tp Commander, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of 'C' Troop (and our attached personnel) for their dedication and hard work during camp and I'm looking forward to my second year with this excellent troop.

NATO RESERVE OFFICERS COURSE (NAROC) 1988
by Maj David Baxter R Signals (V)

One would be hard-pushed to think of a better venue for a course. Rome in June is superior to Catterick or, dare I say it, Blandford. Billetted (if that is the right word) at the Hotel Delta, one could have superb views over the Coliseum from the swimming pool. The one thing the joining instructions failed to mention was the dogged determination on the part of Roman motorists to clip vulnerable parts of one's anatomy while one attempted to cross the road.

The course itself was well attended with some 60 odd reserve officers taking part from most member countries, including the USA, Canada, Italy and Germany. Having assembled on Sunday 5 June the next six days were literally crammed with presentations and committee work on a number of wide-ranging yet complementary themes. These were: 'Alliance Strategy and Force Structure', 'The Soviet Union Today', 'The Role of the Reserve Forces' and one and a half day's devoted to 'Crisis Management'. The Speakers came from various backgrounds, including **Dr Robert Kennedy** (the acting commandant of the NATO School), **Air Commodore John Willis** from the UK and **Dr Jeffrey Simon** from Washington, USA.

The highlight of the week must have been the Crisis Management task, with various committees taking the part of America and Cambodia/Kampuchea in a replay of the Malageza incident of 1975. I was amazed how easy it is to solve problems and avoid confrontation when one actually tries.

The climax of this exercise was when **Maj Phil Deteresi USMC**, a veteran of the incident, described the Thai reaction to the arrival of his detachment of marines on their doorstep. Using a unique, and quite unrepeatable, turn of phrase, he described the scene so graphically that the assembled officers took several minutes to regain their composure, and mop away the tears of laughter of course.

In all, a very enjoyable course with an opportunity to make lots of friends. My special thanks must be recorded to **Col 'Buck' Camp Jnr** of the Alabama National Guard for his presentation of the certificate of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Aide de Camp of the Alabama Militia. I just hope he doesn't look too out of place in his Royal Signals Caubeen and Hackle in his native town of Huntsville!

AMERICAN POSTMAN GOES TO CAMP

The Stateside twang of an American visitor was one of the more unusual aspects of camp this year. It came from **SSgt Philip Zimmerman** who came all the way from the town of Savannah in Missouri. **SSgt Zimmerman** is a postman in his home town and he's also a member of the Missouri National Guard. Like the 40th, his role is in communications, he's a member of the 135 Sig Bn, which provides comms for the 35 Inf Div of the National Guard.

SSgt Zimmerman clearly enjoyed his brief attachment with the Regiment, his visit was part of a UK/US exchange scheme which enabled him to see the similarities—and the difference between the two units.

Unusual task for a national guardsman—SSgt Philip Zimmerman inspects the Regiment on parade

The NATO reserve officers course Rome, Maj David Baxter *(second from left, rear row)*

News from Squadrons

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

EXERCISE BOLD GROUSE

In late August the squadron placed itself in the hands of the RCT movers for the deployment phase of Ex Bold Grouse, a NATO FTX involving some 10,000 members of the UKMF, held on the Zealand island of Denmark. The exercise marked the culmination of 18 months of training, CPX's, and FTX's. It also gave everyone the chance to participate in what the Brigade Commander termed our 'ambassadorial role' in Denmark. After a 54 hour move out, 'get on the boat—get off the boat', Main, Step-up and Echelon arrived in theatre, to be met by the FMA reception committee who had asked to deploy early to further 'liaison' with the local community.

A troop quickly moved out to set up location in Denmark's largest barn complex only to find it full of Denmark's largest pile of dried peas! Some imaginative manoeuvring of the GCP solved the problem although it did produce a dust cloud which hung over Main until endex. Meanwhile Step-up and the squadron echelon, located at opposite ends of the same wood had their own problems. B Troop had the novel task of 'establishing Step-up HQ dug in by 7 October'. 'Dug in—what all of it?' So with the help of 6 Fd Sp Sqn RE and a short course in combat engineering' Bravo Tp started digging. Several days and many tons of earth later they were adding the finishing touches to the 10 mexi-shelter complex otherwise known as the 'UKMF grotto'. The 'mega-mexi' proved to be something of an attraction, visitors included the SOinC, Brigade Commander and the Danish press and TV. **LCpl Steve Russell** is available to autograph press photo's!

Echelon had its problems. As the enemy recce moved into their location under cover of darkness to get details of their position, they were disturbed by QM **Maj Stan Hargreaves,** who proceeded to give them a guided tour. Come back anytime said the QM—they did—leaving an IED as a thank you.

Ex Bold Grouse—is this the whole of B Troop?

Ex Bold Grouse—digging in progress at step up loc

Another unforeseen problem came in the form of portaloos—delivered to each location—(despite the efforts of 244 Sig Sqn's 2Lt **Graham Inglis**, but that's another story). Reputations were won and lost on the basis of the 'Loorep'. 'Yes comms are fine, defences are good—but why are the portaloo doors open!

Meanwhile at Gjeddesdahl, A Troop remained static, hosting many VIP visits and honoured with a visit from **HM Queen Margarethe II of Denmark**. Finally endex was called and while A Troop moved south to Germany for exercise Beacon Glare, the balance of the Squadon proposed to place itself in the hands of the Movers. The move back was no less eventful, while **WO2 Chris Newby** (IC Convoy Discipline) led the move back, OC B, **LCpls 'Dinger' Bell, Kev Wade** and **Sig 'Scouse' Clarke** made their escape too!

EXERCISE ISLAND SWAN

In July the weather took a turn for the worse and sensing the call of the great outdoors the Squadron headed north for the brighter lights of Jurby camp, Isle of Man. Various pursuits were undertaken including the usual canoeing, climbing and hillwalking and also sea-fishing, parascending and waterskiing.

Cpl 'Ginge' McDermott, the assistant canoeing instructor, found himself with two main tasks. First he had to entice the canoeists into the uninviting grey water of Douglas Bay, and second he had to persuade chief instructor **WO2 George Bryson** to stop practising his putting in the back of the minibus and come and instruct instead. **LCpl 'Fergie' Ferguson** and **Sig Ed Huxley** were quick to see the opportunities offered by the canoeing, their guided tour of Peel Bay and windsurfer rescue service comes highly recommended. Meanwhile **Capt Rick Mather** graduated in windsurfer instruction. This crash four and a half minue course, conducted with a flask of coffee in the front of the landrover was enough to get everyone on the board and into the water, usually in that order. **WO2 Roy Hannigan's** novel style coupled with **LCpl 'Dinger' Bell's** shorts set the tempo, but **Cpl 'Jonno' Johnson** emerged with the highest score.

For those who preferred the wide open spaces **Sgts Mick Boyle** and **Jim Lynch** ran the hillwalking while **Cpl Dave Allen** took them climbing up the side of Peel Castle! This led to a great deal of interest from passing tourists who cheered, booed or simply ignored them according to their tastes. The parascending was also well supported although there were many home truths spoken a few seconds before take off—a case of 'too much terra, too little firma'.

Ex Island Swan—WO2 Roy Hannigan takes the plunge

Ex Island Swan—Capt Rick Mather wonders where to go next

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj C. L. G. Wright**
2IC	**Capt P. B. Knobel**
AO	**Capt R. A. Hamilton**
QM	**Maj (QM) J. M. Kirkman**
OC A Tp	**Capt S. R. Workman**
OC B Tp	**Lt J. J. Cole (Des)**
OC M Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) C. Clark**

The Squadron has found the last period strenuous to say the least. Despite being somewhat over-committed we have still been able to get men away to Canada, America, Belgium, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Denmark, Brunei, Malaya, Wales and of course Salisbury Plain.

SHQ

SHQ has now absorbed the losses of the OC, Ops Offr, temporary Trg Offr, YofS and FofS. The new crew has started to gel, some of it faster than the rest. The OC has published, and is reinforcing, his Routine Instruction which covers almost everything; the YofS has already grasped the bull by the horns and the FofS is attempting to clear a backlog of reports and admin. The 2IC/Ops Officer is ageing, not so gracefully, in between offices.

SSgt Humble has fled from Ops into Trg Wg trying to computerise our training, parachuting records and anything else vaguely ADP-able. **Sig Grattrick** has become our CIS expert—welcome to SHQ.

The RSM has taken himself plus a recruiting team off to Harrogate and Catterick and will hopefully return with a beret full of volunteers. At least he may be able to convert the more cynical and suspicious to our requirements and needs. More next time.

Our entire Pioneer Platoon (less Sergeant) have spent the last four weeks in Cyprus sunning themselves and will endeavour to publish something on it in the next issue.

Welcome back to **Sgt Sleeman** who never quite made it to civvy street; less mess kit, driver's licence and cash. A short hello to **2Lt G. Fletcher** who is attached currently after an unsuccessful attempt at P Company. Not to worry, congratulations on winning the Sword of Honour. Concentrate on getting your act together for Blandford.

QM DEPARTMENT

A short QM's Dept statement firstly, to congratulate **Maj John Kirkman** on his promotion. It looks good, hopefully you will have more pull with the PSA! Secondly, a sad farewell to **Sgt Cole** who is off to BAOR. Thank you for your efforts particularly with ACEC, equipment deficiences, the Defence Audit etc. Best of luck in 1 Div.

A TROOP

OC Tp	**Capt S. R. Workman**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt P. D. Leyman**
Tp Sgts	**Sgts J. W. O'Driscoll**
	F. D. Kurthausen

Welcome to **Sgt Frank Kurthausen** from Training Wing. Also welcome to **LCpl Murphy** from 244 Sig Sqn, and the new guys from Harrogate, **Sig Brown, Christie** and **Brooksbank**, all to do pre-Para and P Company as soon as possible — best of luck.

Congratulations to **SSgt Taff Leyman** and **Sgt John O'Driscoll** on their promotions as a result of the posting of **SSgt John Cakebread** BAOR as an SQMS. Thank you for running a tight ship. Unfortunately both **Sgts O'Driscoll** and **Kurthausen** are off very soon to Malaya and Brunei—enjoy yourselves. Farewell also to **Sgt Geordie Harvey**.

Members of the troop have been worldwide with **Sig Cool Coates** to USA with 3 Para, **Sgt Geordie Harvey** and **Cpl Carl Weaver** to Canada, and **Sgt John O'Driscoll** and **LCpl Jake Rosser** to Denmark. Oops, nearly forgot, congratulations to **SSgt Cakebread** on passing P Company at his age! We admire your courage, well done, a fine example.

B TROOP

OC Tp	**Lt J. J. Cole (Des)**
RLD 1 Sgt	**Sgt R. G. Nixon**
RLD 2 Sgt	**Sgt G. K. Cripps**

Welcome to the new OC Tp **Lt John Cole** who was believed to be about but vanished on to a Para course whilst the Squadron was on exercise. Farewell to **Lt Andrew Smith** who returns to 4 Div, his old hunting ground. Sorry to see you go.

The main troop activity besides providing BMA has been recruiting. The RITT has been mobile almost every weekend. With smiles and stickers, **Sgt Gaz Cripps, LCpls Jacko Jackson** and **Rick Buxton** have been to Southsea, Newbury and countless other exotic Southern resorts.

Cheers to **LCpl Ollie 'Slim' Oliver, Sig Pete Lawn, Burger Stafford** and **Mungo Greenwell** who moved sideways to A Troop. **Cpl Jack Payne** went to Hong Kong with the Gurkhas and **Cpl Tommy Taylor** is in NI with 1 Para. Welcome to **Sig Johns, Lund** and **Pearce** on attachment from Harrogate to attempt pre-para and P Company—good luck.

Congratulations to **Cpl Jonah Jones** on his recent promotion. Finally, a short farewell (temporary) to **Sgt Bob Nixon** who has gone to Belize with 1 RRF as Out of Area (OOA) RLD Sergeant for the first half of the six month tour. Don't panic **Bob**, we'll try to get you back at Christmas . . . no promises!

M TROOP

OC Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. S. Black**
IC Radio	**Sgt G. R. Crozier**
IC TE	**Sgt J. A. Lockett**
IC Power	**Cpl S. T. Archer**
IC Line	**Cpl C. C. Smith**

Welcome to **WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney** a younger, longer haired version of his predecessor who is worried sick about pre-para and P Company. Best of luck on them, you'll need it at your age. Don't worry, if **SSgt Cakebread** can do it so can you!

Welcome back to **Sgt Nick Preston** who returns from the Falklands. It's great to have a T1 at last. Likewise welcome back **Cpl Matt Wigley** from Hong Kong, we could do without the war stories.

EXERCISE QUICK DROP

Report by Cpl Rod Cowan

Ex Quick Drop is a Military Free Fall (MFF) exercise held annually in June by the Pathfinder Platoon (PF P1) of 5 Ab Bde. The aim is to refresh the P1 and the R Signals MFF trained operators in their skills.

After one or two refresher drops from the C130 Hercules aircraft at 12,000ft the parachutists practice drops with full equipment, simulated oxygen, and finally full equipment High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) from 18,000ft. Drops are practiced by day and by night.

The Signal Squadron has two members, **Cpl Jack Hawkins** and **LCpl Woody Wood** in the PF P1, and a number of MFF reserves who are employed within the Signal Squadron. These include **SSgt John Cakebread** (now posted), **Sgt Frank Kurthausen, Cpls Rod Cowan** and **Smudge Smith**.

The PF P1 is an ideal opportunity for Corps tradesmen to work as signallers within a Infantry unit, if you are highly motivated and enjoy free-fall parachuting.

Airborne

CHALLENGER ESCORT

Report by Cpl Dave Turner (QM Dept)

'Does anyone fancy a trip to Belgium?' the QM asked. After a long thought of about two milliseconds the four places on the Challenger Tank Guard were taken by **Cpl Dave Turner, Sig 'Fast Eddie' Edwards, Mark Lee** 2IC and **Dave Pilgrim.**

Having arrived at Marchwood Military Port early in the morning we reported to the RCT Port Control Area. Here we were given detailed instructions about the task ahead. The tanks had to be checked frequently throughout the first night as the ship remained in port.

Early the next day the lines were cast off and course was set for Antwerp. Having checked the vehicles again throughout the night, and having been admirably sustained on RN rations we arrived in Antwerp 18 hours later. Once the tanks had been offloaded and escorted ashore they were signed for by an RTR 2 Lt and our duties were complete.

The Ship's SSM, **WO2 Robson,** then dismissed us for the rest of the day and night. Showered and changed, the lights and sights of Antwerp beckoned. First stop was the Seaman's Mission, a staging post for the taxi to Antwerp. The City itself is large and makes all welcome. Suffice to say we had a great night and made our way back to the ship in the early hours.

The ship had been reloaded for the return journey; however there was nothing for us to guard. The sea was quite rough and **Sig Edwards** retired ill to bed. The trip on the whole was very interesting and enjoyable.

I don't think it's going to fit mate!

CANADIAN PARACHUTE JUMPS COURSE

Just occasionally it happens! The trip of a lifetime, and you're the only one who can be spared to go. Ten days in Canada on a liaison visit to the Canadian Airborne Regiment to gain our Canadian parachute wings.

On Thursday 21 July 15 members of the HQ and Sig Sqn boarded an RAF Hercules heading for Canada on Ex Quick Drop. Which way do we change our watches, forward or back? Luckily it's back and we gain a 'run ashore' in Trenton. There's only one way to beat jet lag—ignore it! The next morning we boarded our coach, a luxury, fully air conditioned model which made our equivalents look like written off horse carts. The next three days were spent touring, Kingston for lunch and Fort Henry (the guide probably still hasn't recovered),

Canadian Jumps Course: The Team
L to R (Back Row): Bde HQ, Bde HQ, Bde HQ, Sig Lawn, Sgt Barnett, Bde HQ, Canadian, Sgt Harvey, Sig Day, Stafford, LCpls Rosser, Oliver and McGovern
L to R (Front Row): Cpl Weaver, Canadian, Capt Gillespie, Bde HQ and Canadian

followed by a day and night in Montreal. The next day was a little hot—where do you go for a swim around here? USA—where else!

We were beginning to warm to the course . . . now for the work part. Synthetic parachute training and barbecue. I think we can handle that. We spent three days at Canadian Forces Base Petawawe. Unfortunately due to aircraft availability we only managed one morning of jumping. Sufficient only to get our Canadian Wings, and what a way to get them—jumping at 1,250ft, without equipment out of the back of a Chinook—sheer luxury! Although it was a bit hot.

Well, that was the work. Next we moved on to more touring. Ottawa, Niagara Falls and Toronto this time. And so eventually and, in some ways thankfully, (neither my liver nor my wallet could afford much more) it was back to good old 'Blighty'.

Special mention must be made of: The Crazy Gang—**Messrs Rossor, Day** and **Stafford; Sgt 'Geordie' Harvey**'s haircut; **Capt Gillespie**'s trunks; **LCpl 'Frump' Oliver**'s stomach and **Sgt 'Nidge' Barnet**'s pension.

1ST AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CAYTHORPE—SEPTEMBER 1988

The Squadron's annual pilgrimage to Caythorpe in Lincolnshire proved to be most enjoyable. We had planned that some 40 troops would 'jump-in' but in the event only 15 were available to descend on to the camp of HQ RCT TA at Grantham. About 50 Arnhem Veterans of the 1st AB Div Sigs OCA and their wives provided an appreciative audience on a clear, sunny day with what could be called 'sporting winds'. The troops then moved to the village of Caythorpe, where the veterans were billeted prior to the Arnhem Battle, for the next and social part of the reunion. This was only interrupted for a soccer match against the village reserve team, which showed that, although our lean mean maroon machine is fit and hearty, they are not all necessarily expert football players. Caythorpe Village 13 Sig Sqn 2! Ho hum, back to the pubs for more tales of derring-do, from old and new. While the OC and the officers joined the veterans for a sit-down meal in Kestwyn College, the Troops enjoyed their steak and chips in the farmer's field. Then on to more war stories until the wee small hours.

Sunday morning was bright and sunny. The veterans up and about early, medals clanking and shoes highly polished, while the AO did a roaring trade for the PRI selling AB Signals ties and the like. Meanwhile the Troops were scraping bovine debris off their boots and rescuing uniforms from bergans in preparation for church parade. The church was packed with veterans and villagers. The **Rev Hugh Middleton** spoke eloquently about the Arnhem Battle and the virtues of courage and self-sacrifice. We missed our usual bugler, **Cpl Mick Fleming,** currently wearing a green beret in Norway, so the silence of Remembrance was all the more poignant.

After the parade, where else to go but for lunchtime refreshment, musical and otherwise, until transport came to take the weary troops back to Aldershot. They left with the farewells of the veterans ringing in their ears, after quite an exhaustive but certainly most enjoyable weekend.

Farewell Caythorpe 1988, roll on Caythorpe 1989.

The Squadron line the route outside the church at Caythorpe

AIRBORNE SIGNALS MUSEUM

Courtesy of ex (honorary) **Cpl Bert Easter,** 1 AB Div Sigs, the museum now houses a 1/12 scale model of a Horsa Glider, accurate in every detail, painted in WW2 colours and bearing the special registration numbers HE 960, **Bert**'s initials and last three. Model is perhaps an understatement, as the glider measures some 6ft in length, with a wing span of similar proportions. Too large for any showcase, it had to be slung from the ceiling, where it almost dominates the briefing-table. **Bert** laboured for the best part of a year to manufacture, piece together, and paint the many parts of the assembly, for which, of course, there was no small-scale, blueprint.

The Horsa Glider, and the memories it conjures up for **Bert** and his comrades of 1 AB Div Sigs, were the driving-force behind his project. As modern-day counterparts of our cherished 'Old and Bold', we are honoured to have custody and to display another part of Airborne Signals history.

Airspeed AS51 Horsa Glider:

Wingspan	26-82m
Length	20-41m
Weight empty	3,800kg
Weight loaded	7,030kg
Max towing speed	240km/H
Max glide speed	160km/H

More than 3,500 Horsas were built and used in Norway, Normandy, Arnhem, Rhine Crossing, Sicily and Palestine.

Ex (honorary) Cpl Bert Easter presents his 1/12 scale Horsa Glider to the OC, Maj Chris Wright

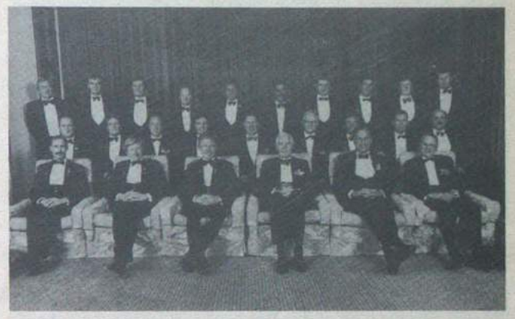
AIRBORNE SIGNALS OFFICERS DINNER 1988

The Officers' Mess HQ 5 AB Bde, Aldershot, once again hosted the annual dinner, this year on 16 September. Due to many and varied commitments the numbers available to attend were somewhat reduced from previous years. Nonetheless, a small, but goodly band of 'Maroon Mafia' enjoyed the good food, fine wine, music from the Falklands Band of the Parachute Regiment, and of course, the wit and repartee of those present.

To set the scene for the evening, the OC, **Maj Chris Wright** had asked the QM, **Capt (Now Major) John Kirkman** to provide a small static display of AB Sigs equipment, past and present. The first soldier, clad in a Denison para-smock, 1937 pattern webbing, holding a WW2 sten-gun, stood beside his ancient radios; considerably pre-larkspur! This contrasted sharply with the second soldier in the latest DPM combat gear, armed with SA80, and displaying the very latest in 1980's radio technology. Both the dress and equipment provided much comment and discussion.

The guests of honour were **Maj Gen Bill Macfarlane,** late Col Comdt, and **Brig David Chaundler,** Comd 5 AB Bde. It was especially pleasing to see **Lt Col John Griffin** and **Lt Col Robbie Laing** who journeyed from York and Devon respectively, for the reunion.

The date for the 1989 reunion has been set for Friday 22 September. Ex-Airborne Signal Officers are requested to make a note in their diaries, and watch-out for the planning letter, which will be sent out in the Spring.



Airborne Signals Officers' Dinner 1988

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244 Sig Sqn (AS)
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EXERCISE BOLD GROUSE
by Sig S. Frost

DELTA TROOP

Team One	**Flt Lt Thornhill (RAF)**
	Sgt Jenkins (Echo Tp TAVR)
	Sig Frost (Det Cmdr)
Team Two	**FSgt Plunkett (RAF)**
	LCpl Jones (Det Cmdr)
	Cpl Jenkins (Echo Tp TAVR)

The exercise started quite energetically for me as on the afternoon of our deployment I was one of the lucky people who had to attend the OC's little battle march. Ten miles later and a few hours on, at precisely 0330 on Thursday 1 September we all drew our weapons and assembled in the hangar for the move to Harwich, which went quite quickly and smoothly. We had a Police escort from Colchester to Harwich so it was quite relaxing not having to worry about roundabouts or red lights!

We finally boarded our boat the DFDS ship *Dana Anglia*, found our cabins and later turned in.

The boat docked and we had to face the long drive to Zealand. We arrived in our Exercise location (Vaerlose Airfield) at about 0500 hrs on Saturday morning. At approximately midday we started our daunting task of recceing all the helicopter landing sites. Led by our intrepid leaders, **Flt Lt Thornhill** and **FSgt Plunkett**, we ventured off into the Danish wilderness. We soon discovered a new double act hiding right on our own doorstep with the 'brothers grim' **(Sgt** and **Cpl Jenkins)** who apparently also have the rest of the clan in on the act in the form of our TA Troop in Cardiff.

During one recce we did manage to establish the location of EFI NAAFI. The majority of our first week was taken up driving the length and breadth of Denmark checking helicopter landing sites.

Meanwhile, back at the sharp end, our team was supervising the night heli-move of really heavy empty Danish pallets. It seemed that the Danish logistic regiment hadn't brought any loads and so the Chinooks spent the good part of a night moving empty pallets. After a very hectic week of early starts and late nights, we had a quiet spell on Saturday and managed a spot of sight-seeing and shopping on R & R in Copenhagen. A good time was had by all. Then it was back to the grindstone with the FTX lurking around the corner.

As the sun broke across the barren landscape of Zealand, gunsmoke lingering on the fresh morning air, faces blackened, weapons at hand, we departed into the wilderness. MAOT team one off to the RMA and team two off to the 1st Bn Devon and Dorsets. Our first task was with the logistic regiment moving re-supplies up to the forward area. But due to bad weather and aircraft faults, the loads had to be moved by road. So nearly 24 hours later, we arrived back at RMA, managed to grab a few hours sleep before the next move the following evening. During that day, we were called forward to work with 'Main' which was located in a local farm. On our visit to main, we even met up with our other team.

LCpl 'Scouse' Jones who had now become an honorary member of 1 D & D, had just crawled out of a fire trench and was not looking too happy.

We had one more lift before endex and we spent another 24 hours waiting around due to aircraft trouble so the move went by road. Then it was back to Vaerlose for a good shower and sleep, to dream of the wonderful drive and ferry journey home. Two weeks, two days and 5,000km later, we were back at camp, with just the memories to look back on and the thoughts of next year's exercise in mind.

DELTA TROOP (MAOTS)

Deep in the heart of 'Sunny Wiltshire' lying between Swindon and Salisbury, there is RAF Upavon. It is here we find Delta Tp Mobile Air Operation Teams (MAOTS) or as the rest of the squadron call us 'The Deltoids'.

We consist of one SNCO and eighteen RTG's who are tasked directly from HQ 1 Gp RAF in support of the UK based Support Helicopter (SH) Force.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

During the past couple of months, there have been many arrivals and departures within the Troop. Firstly **LCpl 'Dizzy' Netherwood** went to get a sun bronzed body over in Cyprus as a PTI and **Sig 'Jock' Plunkett** went on a short Belize tour before going to London. Next to go was our leader **Sgt Tony 'Padder' Freeman** who left for Harrogate as one of the Trade Training Staff. This was after **Sgt 'Scouse' Anderson** arrived from RAF Brize Norton to take over as the new Troop Sergeant. With the arrival of **Sgt Anderson,** we are now in the process of moving our troop office down to the hangar, so that not only can he keep an eye on us, but he can have a shower too!

Other departures have seen **Sig 'Mal' Maloney** leave to go to Blandford and **LCpl 'Ritchie' Southgate** who is now promoted to 'Mr' and is looking after his new house. **LCpl 'Murph' Murphy** has now left us, but not before announcing his engagement to **SACW Lynne Mckelvey**. Best wishes to both of them for the future. Last but not least **Cpl Paul Elkington** who also became a 'Mr', but is now busily employed in looking after his newly born daughter **Samantha**.

Arrivals in the troop have included **Sig 'Jack' Frost** and **LCpl 'Pete' Thrush** who joined us from Germany. Next on the list was **Sig 'Taff' Jones** who came down to the troop from the Squadron at Brize Norton. August saw the arrival of **Sig Pat 'Oz' Gray** and **Ian Green**, two more colourful arrivals from Germany! All new arrivals have settled in well and are looking forward to all the aspects of MAOT work.

Finally congratulations must go to **Cpl 'Tommo' Thomson** on his promotion, **LCpl Phil Tonks** and his wife **Susan** on the birth of their little boy **Darren, Cpl Andy Drummond** on his marriage to **SACW Carrie Mcskimming** and to **Sig 'Bobby P' Porter** on his marriage to **Miss Margaret Wilson.** Best wishes to all concerned and good luck to the 'Ex-Deltoids' in their new postings/employments.

SQUADRON 'SUMMER CAMP'
Report by LCpl Jones

Dawn broke on the morning of 15 July to find approximately one half of the Squadron en-route to Jurby Camp on the Isle of Man. After an uneventful journey, we arrived, stowed our kit and were briefed on the following days activities.

A rainy 0600 hrs found us on the square for PT (Deep Joy). Following this came a morning of lectures which included SA80, vehicle and personnel searches, First Aid and map reading. 1330 hrs saw horizontal rain, gale force 8 winds and Yeehah! a CFT. Drenched and tired, we endeavoured a dry out kit before yes—the nightmare continued—the night Navex. In more rain, individual groups struggled around the course. A measure of the difficulty was that **SSgt Wise** could not even find his checkpoint much to the OC's amusement.

At 0445 hrs the following morning all groups were safely in bed and psyching up for the next days events. 0900hrs (late start—shock!) saw more lectures with the sinister subjects of survival, emergency navigation, resistance to interrogation etc. Where are the surfboards and windsurfers RQ? It is a summer camp—Isn't it? Oh yes, a special thanks to **Sgt 'Bodie' Howell-Walmsley** for a very realistic 'living off the land' lecture!

Night time came and an entertaining little Tactical patrolling exercise was indulged in. Section 5, under **2Lt Inglis** were the only ones not to get 'bumped' during the night and had an average of eight hours sleep compared to 'zero' for the other sections (tough at the top!).

'RV with a friendly agent at 0700 hrs the next day' was the instruction, we did so, and were met by the RQMS, **WO2 Atkinson**. Weapons and Bergens were taken off us and we were taken by 4-tonner to a 'house-clearing demo'—we were met by **Sgt 'Doyle' Collins** and taken to a disused farmhouse.

The next three days we roamed the Manx country side in groups of four, hiding during the day and moving at night, contacting friendly agents **(SSgt Morrissey)** and in general, avoiding the 'Bad Guys'—some groups were luckier than others—myself, **Sig Fullerton** and **LCpl Amies** (minus **Cpl Shield)** were regally wined and dined by some very friendly locals (double sausage, egg and chips) whilst most had to make do with a quarter of a chicken and biscuits anti-tank (it's tough at the top!) but all managed to get to the final RV at endex (after a few captures and map reading errors) and 'kip' was had, kit was packed and an excellent barbecue attended by all. Nursing a few hangovers, we sadly said goodbye to Jurby and travelled back, pausing only to wave to the other half of the Squadron at Heysham Quayside (Good Luck!)—and back to camp and leave—cheers DS!

EXERCISE ALLEY EXPRESS
by Cpl Andy Drummond

On Wednesday 7 September, five members of D Troop (MAOTs) deployed on this exciting and busy exercise taking place in European Turkey.

The five members formed two detachments, M8 and M10, the permanent AMF(L) detachments within the troop.

The exercise was in four phases: deployment; deterrent ops; combat ops and having won the war, redeployment. However, when we arrived late at night at Corlu Military Airport, it seemed that the deterrent phase had been exempted and combat phase announced straight away. As we were all about to deplane, a warning was giving by a mover (everyone loves a mover) to watch out for snakes, scorpions, wild dogs and live marquee tent poles. Well we all managed to survive the first night in the holding area all right, except for **Sig 'Taff' Jones**, who ran out of cigarettes through worry.

There is an old saying 'never get separated from your kit'. Well the next day saw us board a coach to join the Ship which was bringing in our vehicles, and watch our kit go on a Turkish 4-tonner. It managed to find us four hours later. Units then deployed to the staging area for seven days of deterrent ops. D Troop MAOTs were kept very busy through this phase and not managing any R & R to Istanbul. Out at first light, to co-ordinate with the different nationalities—Turkish, American, German, Belgian, Luxembourg and others—in procedures for day and night landing sites.

Not only were they out on the ground with the troops, they also had to provide long range HF Comms back to A Troop at the HQ, VHF Comms to the patrols on the ground and UHF Comms to the AMF Forces Helicopter Unit. This provided some good experience to the new members of the Troop, **Sig 'Pat' Gray** and **'Liney' Cadman**, who incidentally, because of his dark complexion was mistaken by a member of A Troop for a Turk when off duty.

Some hard work by the lads went into the emplaning and deplaning of troops, and also with big artillery moves of three or four batteries of different nationalities. Not only were the detachments able to show off their helicopter handling qualifications, which they were taught by **Cpl Andy Drummond** before deploying, but for **Sig 'Pat' Gray** to practise his German, which he learned whilst at 202 Sig Sqn Paderborn.

Seven days later, combat ops were called and D Troop was still extremely busy. On one occasion, both teams were involved with a night move with 350 American Infantry by helicopter on a night LS, for the pick up and drop off. Both sites were recceed and set up by the two HHI det cdrs, **Cpl Andy Drummond** and **LCpl Bri Ives**. During this move, a surprise visit to both ends was made by a 4-star Turkish General, who was impressed by the efficiency of the move.

There were three occasions when D Troop members thought they had done their job but ended up straight onto another.

Whilst returning from a fuel lift, M8 and M10 came across an RMP motor cyclist in a ditch, who was badly shocked after being run off the road in a motor accident. **Flt Lt P. Kennedy, Flt Lt K. Whittaker** and **Sig 'Baz' Cadman** attended him, whilst **Sig Pat Gray** called up the Italian Medevac Helicopter, which arrived within 20 minutes. During this time traffic was being co-ordinated by other members and a broken leg attended to by the three trainee doctors, who then helped to stretcher the cyclist to the helicopter.

Another occasion was when all members of the troop assisted A Troop with a fire fighting team, when an American trip flare had accidentally set alight bushes.

The last occasion was when **SSgt Barry Martin-Pitt** from A Troop found the two dets with time to spare and gave them SA80 Drill under a cam net.

The exercise flew by very quickly, the weather was hot except for endex, when D Troop managed a morning at the Black Sea, no sun bathing here, force 8 winds, persistent rain and 12ft waves. Never mind.

Apocalypse Now (Turkey '88) Sig 'Pat' Gray providing UHF comms

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249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

EXERCISE ALLY EXPRESS

The Squadron deployed to Turkish Thrace in September for Ex Ally Express. This was a chance to deploy for the first time with SA 80 and with our two new Mobile Satellite Ground Terminals. The following photographs reflect the Squadron during Detterence Operations, Combat Operations and during R & R awaiting flights back to UK after endex.

LCpl 'Herbie' Hancock and Sgt 'Gaz' Waters attend the Turkish War Memorial Service alongside other NATO forces

The Squadron responded well to a call for blood donors on the exercise. Sig 'Vamp' Evans seen here, nursing a private fantasy, donating a pint at the Italian Field Hospital

'The things that get left in engine compartments these days . . .' Cpl Tim Mackereth of the unit LAD keeps the vehicles going

The end of the run . . . Sig 'Happy' Phillips gives a triumphant salute or is it a Slope arms?

Sgt Jim 'Dundee' Weeks R Australian Signals, Sgt Steve Hughes, Capt Wayne Coupland and Maj Willie Bryant US Army prepare for a recce on the next location for Headquarters

The OC Maj Simon Kidner presents 'Jimmy' to the Comd AMF(L) Maj Gen Angioni to mark the General's last exercise with the AMF.

FAREWELLS

Finally our farewells to all those who have left the Squadron since our last notes. In particular to **Capt Ron Collins** and to **WO2 (YofS) Harry Elkan** who leaves us on promotion to WO1 and joins the School of Signals.

EXERCISE TRI SKIRMISH (MONT BLANC)

Report by SSgt (YofS) Crosby

On 5 July, fifteen members of the Squadron set out from Bulford en route to St Gevais, France. This was to be the start/finish point for our trek around the massif du Mont Blanc. The aim was to circumnavigate the great mountain using a route known as the Tour Du Mont Blanc (TMB). We were to be totally self contained (except food), had an estimated 175km and a total ascent of over 30,000ft, to cover in 12 days.

Due to unforseen circumstances we were late arriving in St Gevais (2230 hrs) so having done a map recce decided to head for the only campsite—which was non existent! So much for accurate 1:25,000 maps! We finally slept in the car park which was a good move as the cog railway was a mere 20 yds away. The mountain train took us up to the official start point—the Col de Voza, a baby at 4,500ft!

It was here the part split into two groups, the 'A' Team attacking the route anti-clockwise, and the 'B' Team clockwise. The teams were:-

'A' Team	'B' Team
SSgt (YofS) Terry Crosby (Expedition Leader)	**LCpl Geoff Pearson** (Group Leader)
Sgt Steve Hughes (Cilor Account/medic)	**Cpl Dave Price** (Cilor Account)
Cpl Karl Randall	**Capt Ron Collins**
LCpl Steve Caws	**Cpl Harry Harrison**
Sig Frank McGuiness	**Sig Marvin Potter**
'Robbo' Robinson	**LCpl Dave Tinkler**
Paul Gaddas	**Sig Dick Obrien**
Steve Joyce	

The starting line up

'SSgt (YofS) Terry Crosby enjoying breakfast in Chamonix, with Mt Blanc cloud covered in the background

SSgt (YofS) Terry Crosby and Sgt Steve Hughes admiring the view en route to La Brevent (7,500ft)

THE 'A' TEAM DIARY

The 'A' team set off in earnest to cross a glacier only to find a bridge missing! **Sgt Steve Hughes** was the first to volunteer to cross the glacier and after nearly disappearing into the first crevasse the rest of us decided to leave him to it. A three hour detour took us back onto the route and we finally hit Constamines some 11 hours later very tired and ready for a good nights sleep.

And then came the 'tent parade'. First away was the all singing, all dancing £200 **Crosby/Hughes** Spacepacker, followed by the **Robbo/McGuiness** Vango force 10 'inner tent' (yes, they'd forgotten the flysheet!). Then came the **Caws/Joyce** orange 'Wendyhouse', and to complete the line up, the **Randall/Gaddas** 20lb mansion that would have accommodated all of us.

That night the weather turned, as thunderstorms hit the Alps—needless to say there were a few wet bodies in the morning.

A break in the weather saw us get away towards our highest peak of the walk, the Col de Four (8100). It was a slow, long grinding climb of some 14km, that coupled with the hot sun produced some minor heat exhaustion casualties. It finally forced us to stop on top of the Col de Bonhomme, in a mountain refuge hut (7,600ft) which afforded spectacular views.

We finally crossed the snow covered Col de Fours, the following day and descended at a great rate, virtually skiing on our boots. **Sig Frank McGuiness** and **'Robbo' Robinson** tried the Karrimat sledge method, but had distinct trouble with the steering gear. Going fairly well now, we pushed on through the Col de Seignor (the French/Italian border) and down towards our planned overnight stop.

By now the scenery had changed dramatically from snow covered mountain trails, to plush, open green valley floors where the walking became quite easy. This enabled us to put two days walking into one allowing us an extra rest day in Entreve, whilst still remaining on schedule. Needless to say the time was spent taking in the very hot sun.

By now we had a good feel for the terrain and decided we could reach our next planned rest day in two days as opposed to the scheduled three days. Therefore our destination on the Monday was Pre de Bar a 'wild' camping place at about 6,000ft. We initially followed the road out of Entreve (The Italian entrance to the Mt Blanc tunnel) and then followed the guide books advice in getting off the road. The path, however slowly disappeared and we were eventually committed to climbing a very dangerous steep cliff made of wet, crumbling scree/earth, much to **Sig Paul Gaddas**'s disgust. One and a half hours later we emerged, safely, and moved onto La Vache to meet the other half group of four who had successfully avoided the cliff.

The remainder of the day's route was straightforward enough with a steady climb up to the Pre de Bar, which we made in good time. The cloud closed in near dusk, which was by now quite welcome as the sun had been unrelenting the past few days. We were treated to an incredible noise and light demonstration overnight, as by now, regular thunderstorms hit the Alps once again, keeping all of us awake most of the night.

Being at 6,000ft, the initial climb in the morning was fairly quick and the pass (Col de Ferrett 7,500ft) marked the Italian/Swiss border. It was fairly windy so we didn't dwell long at the top. We descended fairly rapidly as usual and as we approached the bottom met up with the remains of group B who were **LCpl Geoff Pearson, Cpl Dave Price, LCpl Dave Tinkler** and **Sig Dick Obrien**. We stopped for some 30 minutes passing on various information that would be useful to each other before going our separate ways.

Most of the remainder of our day's route was on unavoidable tarmac and it slowly took its toll with a few blisters, although having caught them early, we patched up with the highly successful zinc oxide tape and they gave no further problems.

Our rest day in Champex was spent relaxing in the sun around the large lake that formed the centre piece of this very picturesque town. **SSgt (YofS) Terry Crosby** and **Sgt Steve Hughes** even managed to sample the local rowing boats.

The last five days were spent coming back into 'civilisation' something we really hadn't expected to such a degree. Compared with the first half of the expedition it was positively five-star luxury.

La Forclaz was the next stop, a small pinnacle perched on a busy mountain pass, that was highly recommended, as opposed to the mossi infested village of Triente some 1km further down the valley.

The heavy overnight rain had not totally disappeared as we set off on day nine heading for Les Zchosalets. We were quickly into the steep climb and slowly but surely heading for thick cloud lying just above us. By the time we walked into it, the warm wet drizzle had turned to very cold rain. We were lucky enough to stumble over an old covered ruin, just right for warming up and preparing ourselves to go on in these conditions. It was a clear demonstration of the changeability of the weather in Alps.

We crossed the summit, the Col de Balme (the Swiss/French border) and continued to descend. The reverse of the conditions

happened just as rapidly as we came out of the cloud, and it was back into shorts and T shirts.

We made the overnight stop in good time where we made good use of the civilised facilities including a cocktail bar where **LCpl Dave Caws** wasted no time in getting a head full of his favourite 'head banging' music, as well as the opportunity to improve his Swedish!

The next day was the one we were all looking forward to—our arrival in Chamonix. It is without doubt the activity centre of the area and we were not going to miss the opportunity to sample the atmosphere. It was a little expensive but none the less an impressive place.

We were now slightly off course, but a small cable car ride soon put that right. We contoured the mountain to a prominent spur called Plan Plaz where we sat for about half an hour watching parachutists jump off the cliffs towards Chamonix some 3-4,000ft below us. And so to our last major climb, up to La Brevent (7,500ft) made to look very impressive by its comparitively low surroundings. The views were spectacular with Chamonix looking like some Turkish carpet laid out on the floor.

The following descent was without doubt the most difficult we'd encountered being almost total rock. It took some four hours to descend to Les Houches, a town which marks the official end to the walk. We had already decided to climb up to the Col de Voza to make it a complete circumnavigation, so any form of celebration was a little premature.

Despite being well acclimatised and walking fit, the last 2,000ft the next day was still hard going but needless to say it was duly accomplished. It was quite nice to sit on the top and gloat at others about to start their little trek.

We met several other groups and pairs of walkers and its not surprising rescue teams get called out so often. Our packs weighed 30lb at their lightest and pushing 60lb at the ridiculous, with 35lb being about optimum for this sort of trip with the correct type of kit. Others weighed in less than 20lb skimping on waterproofs, spare footwear, and with only one jumper between four, the list goes on.

We finally moved down to St Gevais where we met the other group, had a day to rest and then got the night train back to Bulford.

A highly successful expedition with the aim being achieved. The guide book certainly erring on the 'easy' side giving us the room to manoeuvre with rest days. Exercises such as these certainly gave our younger soldiers the opportunity to show what they could do when it came to a bit of initiative and determination.

POST NOTE

This is a very good expedition for Novice/Intermediate standard and is well within the capabilities of a JSMEL (Summer) expedition leader. **SSgt Crosby** would be happy to offer advice and help with any unit planning a similar expedition.

'The end of the road' Sig Robbo Robinson, Frank Mcguiness and Steve Joyce tuck in on top of the Col de Voza

The 'A' team resting on top of the Col de Seignor (French/Italian border)

'Get set! . . . Go!'. The Squadron team on its way to the third consecutive NATO Challenge Cup Competition, this time in North Norway. *L to R:* Sig 'Chalkie' White, Cpl 'Taff' Collinson, LCpl Harry Harrop and Lt Kim Evans

Squadron Swimming Team—Army Finalists 1988
Rear (L to R): Sig Duncan, LCpls Render, Grigg, Cpl Henderson and WO2 (now WO1) YofS Elkan
Front (L to R): Cpl Sheppard, Sig Willis, Blanchard and Lt Evans

Squadron Soccer Team
Winners of the SWDist Minor Units Fair Play Award. Runners up in SWDist Minor Unit Cup Final
Rear (L to R): Sig 'Paddy' Calderwood, LCpl 'Brummie' Baker, Cpl Ron Powell, Sig Vinney Edes, Cpl Andy Slack and LCpl George Keers
Front (L to R): Sgt 'Mac' McFadyen, Cpl Tony Reynolds, Sgt Gaz Waters, Sig 'Del boy' Whyman, Cpls 'Nobby' Nevill, 'Davey' Price and Pete Farmer

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

SHQ

The UNFICYP Golf Society's new season started off with two hard fought competitions to be competed for. Our illustrious Squadron Chief Clerk, **Sgt Howard Ripley**, decided to enter for both after five months of relaxation—he said it was too hot for playing golf! (but that's his excuse).

The first competition, played 7 September 1988 was a 'Stableford' match which resulted in **Sgt Ripley** coming runner up after a hard fought game—not bad after a long lay off. (Don't spend your winnings too quickly Chief!).

The best was yet to come—Wednesday 14 September 1988 saw the most prestigious competition to be played for. The Monthly Medal and Trophy sponsored by Carlsberg (no drink though!). Many players turned out for this event, from all Contingents (Canadians, Austrians, Brits).

The morning round ended with **RSM Hood**, (Sp Regt) returning a good round of a net 71 (Wow! What a challenge he had set all the Golfers!).

The afternoon round had many golfers left frustrated, especially after missing those short putts—or losing balls in the bushes—but our Chief Clerk kept his cool and played relentless golf to produce a very good result. Now, wait for it—after a count back between the Golf Society's Captain **WO2 Wiggam**, (MP Coy), and **Sgt Ripley**, both on a net 64. The winner who emerged—was—Yes, our very own Chief Clerk **Sgt Howard Ripley**.

This now means that our Chief holds the Rabbit Prize (for players with a Handicap of 28-25) which he won before his lay off, though it did cost him a drop of 2, to 26.

As he is now the proud owner of the Monthly Medal and trophy, this has cost him 2 more points, to a 24 Handicap (he should stop winning).

Finally we wish him good luck in all his Competitions, but we just pray he would leave his Trophies at home instead of cluttering up the office, and perhaps he should stop having relaxing lay offs.

TERRY FOX RUN

The Squadron entered the Terry Fox Run on 4 October. The run is a commemorative event organised by the Canadian Contingent to raise money for Cancer Research.

The Squadron team completed the run as a 'BFT Squad' which left the other Contingents well impressed. Congratulations must go to **Sig Lewis** and **Cpl Smith** who swelled the charity coffer for losing the step on the way around. (£C 1.00 for each time!).

Not in the picture is our gallant 2IC **Charlie Manning** who is taking the photograph (so that no one will see he's still wearing his slippers!).

RADIO TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt Roy, Canadian Armed Forces**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Lauder**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Nieradka, Canadian Armed Forces**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Smith**
Tp (mini) SQMS	**Cpl Colbeck**

Since the last report, the Troop has been exceptionally busy, particularly assisting the weaker Line Tp in digging their pole holes, anything beyond sand, call Radio Tp (**Sgt Stan Holden**, take note). In fact the UNPA seems to be made from solid rock.

LCpl Andy Mackie whilst digging a hole came across a cable approx 2ft down, on calling the Line Sergeant with the big question 'Is this cable live?'. The answer from **Sgt Stan (I think it is disused, but don't quote me) Holden**, is 'Here are some snips, cut it and find out'. With a sickly grin on his face (no sparks, lucky guess?), all in all the members of the Troop enjoyed showing the fairer sex (Line Tp) how it should be done.

At this time of reporting, the garages would do proud for a Rover plant, with vehicles in parts being refurbished (problem does anybody know how to reassemble them?) and with the aid of **Sig Martin 'Smasher' Burke** our work load has doubled.

With the Britcon Medal Parade nearly upon us, our socialising has been tampered with, but we have managed to take on our Canadian half of the Troop at ten pin bowling, where the Brits lost.

We say farewell to **Cpl Eshlin, MCpl Phaneuf, Cpl Devereau, Sig Harrison, Burke, Cpl Alexander** and we say hello to **Cpls Smith, Colbeck, Dodds, Sig Quinsey, LCpls Mackie** and **Rose**—enjoy your tour.

COMMCEN TROOP

The past month has seen the farewell of **LCpl Bob 'Baldy' Churchward, Sig Paul Westcott** and **Sig Spence Wolf**. We would like to welcome to the Commcen **Sig 'Jolly' Rodge, LCpl Kev Parnham, Sig 'Robbo' Robson** and hope they have a smashing tour here at 254 Sig Sqn.

Since we last met, the troop has really been buzzing with excitement, with a wonderfully organised Golf competition by **Sig Quinn** attended by a full team. The three medalists were: **Cpl 'Willie' Williams, Sig Dave Wolferstan** and **Westcott/Si Jones** and bringing up the rear was **LCpl 'Slim' Epps**.

Well done also to **Sig 'Mal' McLaren, Sig Eldridge, Chris Quinn**, not forgetting the **YofS WO1 Hammett**, for completing the all-island triathlon, which consisted of a gruelling 1,000m swim, 25km bike ride and a 10km run.

A big well done also to **Sig 'Spot' Tierney, LCpl 'NF' Bowring, Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** for winning the Allcomers Squadron Quiz Night, with the dudes **Sig Beth Armstrong, 'Si' Jones, 'Jolly' Rodge** coming a close second—both teams were from Commcen Tp and we would like to thank **Sig 'Fag' Bedborough** for leaving the answers in the memory of the Trend.

TECH AND LINE TROOP

At the beginning of September the Troop said farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Downie** and his wife **Angela**. They left us for the Falkland Islands (another Island). Thanks **Bob** for all your help and hard work, and we wish you all the best for the future.

We would like to welcome the new Foreman, **SSgt (FofS) Giles Whiteford** and his wife **Yvonne** to the Troop and hope they enjoy their time here.

Others who recently departed were, **LCpl 'Taff' Skinner** (hope the Detachment Commanders course went well) and **Pte Mario Desrochers** of our Canadian Contingent and welcome to their replacements, **LCpl 'Tommo' Thomas** (again) and **Pte 'Rocky' Boucher**.

The UNPA satellite project took a step nearer completion with the eventual arrival of the satellite dish. Unfortunately it wasn't ready for the Olympics, but there are great hopes that it will be ready in time for Christmas.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Nigel Cory**
TOT	**Capt Colin Bachelor**
AO	**Lt Jane Heywood**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Edgecombe**

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATS

Firstly we must say goodbye to **2Lt Karen Osterburg**, off on her Tp Comd Course, **Sgt Dave** and **Linda Thomas**, off to 3 Armd Div Sig Regt, **Cpl Pete** and **Joy Bagnall** off to 233 Sig Sqn on promotion, **Cpl Nick Flanighan** off on his T1 Course at Catterick, **Cpl 'Taff'** and **Paula Francis** off to 4 Armd Div Sig Regt and **Cpl Gail Russell** off to ACIO Strand.

Welcomes go out to **Lt Jane Heywood, Cpl Mick** and **Wendy Garbett, LCpl Nigel Kerr** and **LCpl Anthony Miller**.

Congratulations go to the now **Cpl 'Taff' Thomas** on his promotion, **Sig Appleton** and **Nicholls** for being selected to represent the Army at swimming and **Cpl 'Taff' Francis**, nine minutes was the barrier!

VISITS

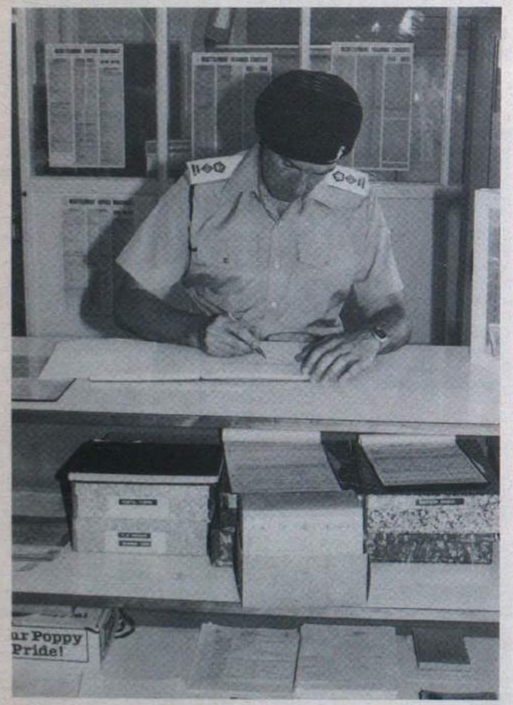
The heat of the Summer obviously sorted the men from the boys with only the fit youngsters and **Lt Col Thwaites** managing to visit the Squadron.

Nevertheless, the attachments of the OCdts and an officer from Shrivenham has kept our 'PR Wing' occupied solidly for the last two months.

The OCdts got a general view of life within the garrison by spending days with the various units and a broader outlook by visiting the other Signal Squadrons on the Island.

Lt Tim Jones from Shrivenham spent five weeks during which he took part in a week's survival exercise, a recording session at BFBS, a triathlon and the organisation of a 24 hour tactical exercise for Comms Tp (cam nets in Cyprus? never been known).

The new DACOS CIS 1 HQ BFC (previously Comd Comms) **Lt Col Thwaites**, visited us in late September. For those unsure of the abbreviations, just think of a man big in Comms! He familiarised himself with the unit in Dhekelia before travelling out to see the lads at Cape Greco.



Lt Col Thwaites catching up on his Orderly Room duties

ANNUAL RAFT RACE

On 9 July, 62 Cy Sp Sqn RE held its annual Raft Race at the CESSAC Beach in Dhekelia. The course is about a mile long, held under arduous conditions of bright sunshine and blue sea. Comms Tp entered the race with 'HMS Hope and Pray' crewed by **Cpls 'Taff' Francis, Barrie Foster, LCpl Dave McInnes** and **Sig Miles Sweeney**. After extensive sea trials and a good mix of craftsmanship, skill and luck it was found that it needed only an engine! With loads of fuel on board, the intrepid four paddled merrily away and ended the race in third place in the destroyer class. The raft held together well, but the crew fell apart!

HMS Hope and Pray

EXERCISE SEA ESCAPE I

This Summer from 15-19 August saw the birth of a new exercise for the Squadron. It consisted of chartering the Corps yacht *Parang* skippered by **Cpl Theo Caderius Van Veen** for two two-day legs from Larnaca to Fig Tree Bay and back. The last day was usual for the families to get out and try their hand at sailing.

Leg 1 Crew **WO2 (FofS) White**
WO2 Thomas
Cpl Robertson
SSgt Lodge
Sig Nicholls and **Kellerher**

On the first day **Theo** suggested to the crew that it would be a good idea to trail a line behind the yacht to enable them to have a swim whilst still sailing. Initially there were no takers but eventually there is always one—in our case two! **Cpl Robertson** and **Sig Nicholls** duly leapt overboard, shark fishing had commenced. Unfortunately the line inexplicably came adrift leaving the bait floating freely. No sharks were caught and the bait was recovered, much to its relief, 20 minutes later. On arrival in Fig Tree Bay the crew abandoned the boat and took to the town. They were not seen again until the next day!

The return to Larnaca was uneventiful though one or two of the crew were grateful for the peace and quiet and were lulled to sleep by the gentle rocking motion.

Leg 2 Crew: **Maj Hewer**
SSgt Snape
Sgts Robertson
Sglvesen
Cpls Elliott and **Abraham**

The first day of Leg 2 was uneventiful and was just a pleasant day's sailing. Shore leave in Fig Tree Bay was entertaining especially for the tourists, as two lads whilst resting in between refreshments provided the cabaret. After spending the night ashore three of the crew returned to the boat and waved goodbye to some German tourists who had so kindly provided them with bedding.

We set sail after breakfast and motored to a small inlet known as Lunatics Leap where **Sgts Robertson** and **Salvesen**, with **Cpl Elliott** in tow, leapt off the cliff which provided a bit of fun for the rest of us.

The wind had picked up quite a bit by mid afternoon and provided us with an exciting sail back to Larnaca. **Cpls Elliott** and **Abraham** were not totally convinced that the yacht would not capsize but soon started to enjoy it.

The families had an interesting and enjoyable day out snorkeling over a wreck of a large container ship that sank in Larnaca Bay a few years ago. All the ladies and the children had a 'go' at sailing the yacht with some interesting results. Everyone said they would like to go again so another trip was arranged in September.

This time it was only a families day and one two-day trip to Fig Tree Bay. The crew for the two day trip were: **Sgt Ley, Cpls Goodall, Thomson, Smith** and **Sig Drury**. They all want to go again. This will have to wait until next season as *Parang* is now out of the water for a well earned refit.

Next year the Squadon is intending to organise an expedition to some far away islands. Just imagine what might happen then!

CHARITY RAFFLE AND 24 HOUR DISCO

262 Sig Sqn held its 24 hour Charity Disco at the Victor Beach Club on 26/27 August. The music started at 1900 hrs and continued through the night, the only respite was for the Charity Raffle which the OC, **Maj Nigel Cory**, drew at the unsociable hour of 3 o'clock in the morning. **Lt Wilman** from 62 Sp Sqn RE was the lucky winner of the holiday for two in Israel, but with 80 prizes on offer a lot of people were winners. The Garrison Commander visited the disco on Saturday afternoon but unfortunately his eardrums could only cope with a short burst at the decibel level!

The total raised from the event was £1,684.93 UK Pounds, which is being divided evenly between Save The Children Fund and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The whole occasion ran smoothly owing to the hard work put in by all Squadron personnel, especially **YofS Jackson** who was the instigator of the whole affair. Thanks must go to all the shops in the Dhekelia/Larnaca area who donated raffle prizes and everyone who made a financial contribution. Special thanks must go to **WO1 Holmes** Sup Coy 17 Ord Bn, **WO2 Turner** 16 Flt AAC, **WO2 (AQMS) Hunter** 16 Flt AAC, **LCpl Hicking** 62 Sp Sqn RE, and **LCpl Dudgeon** 62 Sp Sqn RE for providing the music, without which none of it would have been possible.

Finally thanks must also go to everyone who attended the disco and made it all such a success.

LADIES CHARITY SKY DIVE

The first weekend in October saw **Mrs Phyllis Jackson** 'giving all' in the name of the Squadron. She was one of 20 women who had volunteered to risk life and limb to raise money for SSAFA by taking part in a parachute jump into the sea. Training was given by the Cyprus Parachute Centre and come the morning of the jump the ladies were raring to go! The jumps all went smoothly and the celebrations then started in the 'Drop Inn' with the certificates of completion/endurance being presented by **Air Cdre O'Brien OBE**.

All in all the weekend was a great success raising over C£1,000. Well done ladies.

– News from Troops –

BATUS
BFPO 14

ROYAL SIGNALS IN CANADA
BRITISH ARMY TRAINING UNIT SUFFIELD—BFPO 14

In a corner of the world not usually associated with Royal Signals there is a large expanse of featureless prairie. It is very hot in summer and very cold in winter. It covers a larger area than an entire 1:50,000 map used in BAOR. Out here a stalwart group of Royal Signals personnel work around the clock (well, occasionally) with the exercising battle groups on NATO's largest mechanised warfare training group.

The COMSEC team under **Lt Alan Blackwell** deploys throughout each Ex 'Medicine Man' to monitor and comment knowledgeably on all battle group nets; secondary roles include 'prairie directory enquiries', pre-first line repairs for the safety staff, acting as battle group RSO for a variety of notional BGs and 'anything else signals'. The BATUS Ops room is also Royal Signals manned, in conjunction with the Canadians. Under the watchful eye of **SSgt Chris Taylor** they also cover 'anything plugs and wires'.

The handful of RTgs and ROps here at any one time are detached

LCpl Dobson and Sig Chalk try to get BFBS during the battle

from their units for anything between four weeks and six months. Whilst out here members of the Comsec team and Ops room have visited such places as Calgary, the Rockies, San Francisco, Calgary, Vancouver, Los Angeles/Disneyland, Montana, Calgary and Edmonton.

Particularly for the Comsec team, who are out on the prairie every day, BATUS is a unique opportunity to see complete battle groups exercising with minimal constraints on their live firing and manoeuvring. Occasionally members of the Comsec team have found themselves forward of the lead tanks and have been requested to pull back. Evidently soft top land rovers get in the way of 120mm rounds . . .

Other highlights include the company and BG night battles, the live firing of all BG weapons and specialist equipment such as the minefield breaching Giant Viper.

By the time you are reading this the exercise season will be drawing to a close or will have been snowed off, many of us will be returning to our units and a small handful of the Ops room staff will be preparing for the 1989 season. Winter will also see the building of an extension to the Ops room, the last piece of civilisation before you enter the prairie. Anyone got a spare Corps flag, to remind 1989's battle groups who really runs the prairie?

The Comsec Team (c/s 88). Note the trailer mounted clothes airer

The Comsec Team races a Chieftan into battle

The Prairie. Note the variety of landmarks to assist navigation

COD Sig Tp
COD Donnington

From: COD Sig Tp

PERSONALITIES

Tp OC/YofS	**WO1 (YofS) Pete Tharme**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Howard Swift**
Stores Sgt	**Sgt Steve Stevens MSM**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Dave Lombard**
Spec Projects	**Cpl Dave Thorpe**
Stocks & Reconciliation	**LCpl Doug Smart**
Senior Storekeeper	**Mr Terry Shore**
Storekeeper Receipts	**Mr Walter Brophy**
Storekeeper Repairs	**Mr Ray Morrow**
Stores Assistant Issues	**Mr Matt Donnery**
Stores Assistant Receipts	**Mr Terry Brentnall**
Stores Assistant Repair	**Mr Dave New**
Admin Officer/Chief Clk	**Mr Neil Wise**
Security Officer	**Mr Pat O'Neill**

COD Signal Troop is a small department within the Ordnance Depot Donnington which is situated near Telford, Shropshire and its main responsibility is the issue and receipt of R Signals equipment worldwide.

Our Troop consists of six R Signals soldiers and eight civilian staff and our home is Building B47 Donnington.

Most of the Corps is unaware of our existence. Our task in life is important in that many field units would cease to function if the equipments that are issued from this building were not handled as swiftly and as surely as they are.

Although our primary loyalties must lie with our Ordnance colleagues here, we are proud that we serve the Corps and proud to wear its badge.

SOINC'S VISIT

On 16 August the Troop was fortunate to have been afforded the honour of a visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**. It was an auspicious occasion and disputed any doubts of being a forgotten few.

The day commenced with the flailing of dusters and vacuum cleaners around the approx 50,000 items that are held in the Store, the Ordnance Corps call this 'housekeeping'. **LCpl Dougie Smart** was seen rushing around the Mechanical Handling Equipment (MHE) area putting distilled water in batteries to see if they would move. The General arrived at approx 1215 hrs where he took lunch at the Officers' Mess before being briefed on the role of the Troop. On completion of the briefing the entourage descended upon Building B5 to see how the Ordnance 'store' stores and then on to Building B47 to see how the Royal Signals 'supply' stores and to meet the Troop personalities.

The visit was concluded with the Signal Officer-in-Chief making a presentation of the Meritorious Service Medal to **Sgt Steve Stevens** in recognition of nine year's service with the Troop. It was a memorable occasion with **Sgt Stevens'** family present, some of whom had travelled from Australia. A very enjoyable visit was rounded off by an impromptu party with the MOD Police.

632 Sig Tp
RA Range Outer Hebrides

TURMOIL

The Troop is going through quite a traumatic time due to the proposed amendments to the Troop's establishment. We have just said a sad farewell to our OC, **Capt Sandy Gallie** and his delightful wife **Jane** on posting to HQ1 (BR) Corps.

The reins were handed over to the Foreman of Signals **'Mac' McDonald** on his promotion to WO1.

Other personnel changes over the last few months are as follows: Welcome to **Cpl 'Woody' Wood, LCpl John Carter, Sgts Grant Nicoll** and **Andy Hurley**. Farewell to **Sgt Jim Simpson, LCpl Dave Lilliman** and **Sgt Mick Norton** (on retirement).

VISITS

A recent visitor to the Troop was **Col D. Hunt OBE** Commander AFTS. **Col Hunt** spent a memorable 24 hours on the Hebrides where he was given a comprehensive brief of the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides' activities and the Troop's role in them.

CORRECTION

The picture of the OIC MRO **Col David Miller** on page 465, September 1988 issue, 'Left Holding the Baby' was not taken in the Shetlands, but the lucky lad is **Richard Burns**, son of **Sgt Andy Burns** stationed here in the Outer Hebrides. Just to ensure that we don't all get posted to the Falklands, we forgive this slight mistake.

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES

FSO	**Capt Barry Keegan**
OC Tp	**Lt Joe Cooper**
FofS	**WO1 Ron Kirkwood**
YofS	**WO2 Dave Bowman**
Tp Staffie	**SSgt Bob Shortis**
TQMS	**Sgt John Carpanini**

HURRICANE GILBERT

Gilbert started as a tropical storm out in the Caribbean on or about 8 September. It went from strength to strength as it crossed the warm Caribbean waters until on 12 September it was declared a class three hurricane as it devastated the island of Jamaica. With winds in excess of 150 mph it moved on from Jamaica to the Grand Cayman islands A minor change in its course meant that it just missed these islands causing only slight damage but it was now on its way to Belize.

British Forces Belize were now on hurricane preliminary warning. This meant that all vehicles, moveable objects, buildings, masts etc had to be tied down or stowed away. The new FSO, **Capt Barry Keegan**, wanted to know what we did with the troops 80ft masts, the **FofS Ron Kirkwood** replied that hopefully nothing as there was no erecting kit in Belize!

Gilbert eventually reached 20 North, 84 West approx 125 nautical miles from Belize, the Force now went to hurricane warning Red 1. Gilbert was just 24 hours away. All quarters were now boarded up; all the families who lived in Belize city were brought up to Airport Camp. The families living at Airport Camp packed suitcases and MFO boxes. Convoys were prepared and made ready to take families to Holdfast Camp and Belmopan. The 80ft masts were dropped! Only one was slightly damaged and this happened when it fell sideways and the lowering crew bomb burst away from it! The GSM was not very happy about the damage done to his perimeter fence! By late evening all the masts were down and the FofS 'rang the Bell'.

Gilbert changed course again and missed Belize but struck the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula damaging Cozumal and Can Cun. Everything now had to get back to normal and the FofS asked the FSO 'Right then Sir how do we put these masts back up?'

'Er leave it with me FofS I have a few contacts in 30 Sig Regt who might be able to help'.

True to his word and impressing the FofS no end, on the next VC10 were two Signalmen from 30 Sig Regt along with two erecting kits. **Sig Mack Johnson** and **Sig Jas Garvey**, along with assistance from the troop had all the masts back up and operational within 48 hours. They did a great job and we thank 30 Sig Regt for its prompt assistance.

LIGHTER MOMENTS

While the GSM was on R & R the YofS, **Dave Bowman** was asked to stand in for him. This was fine until one morning the Adjutant asked **Dave** to get his pace stick as there was some measuring to do. The YofS replied that not only did he not possess a pace stick but, if he did, he could not open it, never mind measure with it! The Adjutant was not impressed. Maybe RSMs in the Corps could teach YofS to operate a pace stick?

Our leader, **Lt Joe Cooper**, is a bit of a roughy toughy, or so we thought until he took his teddy bear into the jungle.

Sgt Ray 'Woosh' Neal is quite famous for his fire eating tricks in the troop. It all started when he was detailed to burn some scrub away from the sangars in the Troop's defence area. After sprinkling petrol liberally over the offending area **Ray** waited a few moments while in the 90° of heat the petrol evaporated before taking one pace forward, then he lit his lighter! Luckily only his pride and his hair was damaged! **Sig Bob Shortis** arrival in the troop heralded an outbreak of 'Bell Ringing'. In the evenings **Bob** liked to go for a quiet pint in the Sunspot Club but on these occasions would commit an offence that warranted the ringing of the bell. One night **Bob** could not take it any longer and hurled the bell out of the club and into the POL compound damaging the bells handle. 'Out of order' the lads shouted 'Ring the Bell! Ring the Bell!'.

On our last Ex Rapid Strike **Cpl Don Campbell** was given the GPMG. After carefully examining the weapon he left the armoury only to return a few seconds later to ask where the magazines were!

On the same exercise the Troop was deploying to its defensive positions around the Tx site, **Lt Cooper** was trying to hurry one of the sections along. **Lt Cooper** doubled over to the front of the section to find **Sig Chris Smart** tip toeing through ankle deep water.

'Can't you go a little faster', the OC said.

'No Sir there are creepy crawlies in this water'.

GRAND OPENING OF THE SUNSPOT CLUB

The Sunspot Club has now been redecorated and new furniture installed, so it was decided to have an official opening ceremony. Since the YofS had cultivated some contacts in the British High Commission (how many time have we heard all the boring stories about the cocktail parties!!) he asked the deputy High Commissioner, **Mr Dermot Flanigan** if he would open the Club. Not to be outdone the Troop OC invited the Log Bn CO and the Adjutant to be present. It was also a gozome night and a good time was had by all.

Opening of the Sunspot Club

L-R: Cpl Phil Case, Sig Chris Smart (we think!), Sgt 'Woosh' Neal, Cpl Neil Perham, LCpl Andy Callahan, Sgt Bob Porter, Sig 'Chopper' Anderson. The teeth belong to Sgt Mick Scott

GOODBYES

This month we say goodbye to the following: **Capt Jim Dryburgh, Sgts Ray Neal, Jeff Guy, Mick Scott, LCpls Jack Hawkins, 'Taff' Webber** and **Cpls As Lawer** and **'Titch' Murry**.

HELLOS

The troop would like to welcome the following: **Capt Barry Keegan, Sgts 'Bev' Beverley, John Kennedy, John Carpanini, Cpls Dave Beach, 'Geordie' Robson, John Greenwood** and **Nick Hipwood**.

Association News

COVENTRY BRANCH

Secretary: **Mr D. French**, 20 Whoberley Avenue, Coventry, West Midlands CV5 8EP

Coventry Branch Standard, recently dedicated at the Reunion Service held in Catterick on 26 June, was paraded in Coventry on Sunday 4 September to a service at Holy Trinity Church, Broadgate. Upon arrival at the church it was received by the vicar, the **Rev Graham Dow** and placed on the altar.

About 200 ex-servicemen were present at the Church and on the march. Also paraded were 24 Standards of service and ex-service organisations including the 'Stars and Stripes' of a local American Airforce base. The picture shows the standards and it should be noted that the two immediately behind the Stars and Stripes are those of Bedford and Birmingham branches.

The parade marched past, in Broadgate, and the salute was taken by the Lord mayor, **Cllr Arthur Waugh Jr** who was accompanied by **Lt Col J. N. O'Hanlon** and **Lt Col A. W. Hallows OBE**. Following the parade a Reception was held in the Cox Street Club.

The Coventry Branch was reformed (after a temporary lapse) in 1985, under a new Committee, and now has 50 members with a strong ladies section. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month (2000 hrs) at the Royal Warwicks Club. If you are not a members, and live within easy reach of the Branch, please don't hesitate to write to **David French** or better still, turn up at the next convenient Branch Meeting and join!

DERBY BRANCH

Four members of our Branch revised memories as guests of 46 Sqn at Burnaston Barracks for four days in September. We thank all persons concerned for an enjoyable visit. During our stay we made contact with several members of Scarborough Branch and hope to meet up with them at a future date.

Tuesday 18 October the Branch and 46 Sqn hung a Memorial Cross in the hall of Kingsway TA centre in memory of all members of the Royal Corps of Signals who have given their lives in the service for their country. It was unveiled by **Lt Col S. Coltman** CO of 38 Sig Regt and dedicated by **Capt Bill Spears** Padre of the former 46 Sig TA. The deputy **Mayor** and **Mayoress, Councillor** and **Mrs Ray Baxter** were present together with a number of branch members, who, after the ceremony, were entertained in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and served with coffee and sandwiches.

We have had several weddings amongst our Branch serving members **Cpl K. Gilbank** married **LCpl K. Cockrane** on 11 June, **Cpl M Adams** married **Miss Jacques** on 25 June, **LCpl Westbrook** married **Pte Lowe** on 1 October and **Cpl D. Fletcher** married Pte L. Emmerson on 5 November. We also report the engagement of **Cpl N. Royston-Webb** with **LCpl Tunnecliff**. We congratulate them all and wish them much happiness for the future.

Due to our happy relationship with the Squadron our membership has increased and we have had a good year, we are now looking forward to the forthcoming Christmas festivities.

RUBY WEDDING

We also report, with much pleasure, the 40th wedding anniversary on 26 November of our Chairman, **Mrs Dot Williamson** and **Sandy** which was celebrated with their army friends in the SNCOs' Mess. Many congratulations to **Dot** and **Sandy**.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Two of HM Ships, *Charybdis* and *Limbourne*, were lost in 1943 in Channel Island waters as a result of enemy action. Many of the bodies washed ashore on Guernsey beaches are interred in the cemetery at Le Foulon.

The annual memorial service was held, this year, on Sunday 9 October, at the graveside, with representation from the Branch.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Report by Mr Frank Elwood

It is a long time since we submitted a report to *The Wire*, but after a nudge from the Assistant Editor a 'volunteer', yours truly, was nominated as scribe.

Our meetings are well-attended. We are a mixture of pre-war regulars, 39-45 men, young ex-regulars and TA(VR) members.

Frank Stockdale, well-known long-time member of the Corps, is recovering from a hip and knee replacement, and can now get about on sticks. He will soon be known as the 'Tin Man' if he gets any more bits of metal in him!

Every Branch has a character—we have **Bert Motley**, ex pre-war 'A' Corps, India, recalled on outbreak of war. He always has a fund of interesting anecdotes and funny stories.

A sad blow to the Branch was the passing of the **Rev Harry Spray**, a tireless worker for the Branch. He was a Post Office Telephones Officer all his working life, except for wartime service in the Royal Signals. He was sick visitor and welfare officer for retired Post Office workers and parishioners visitor for his Church. He is sadly missed, and our sympathy went out to his wife **Emmie**, who was a good supporter of the Branch.

Branch activities are well-supported, Ladies' night being every third Thursday of the month and Branch meetings every first Thursday. The Annual Dinner this year was the 20th anniversary of the reformation of the Branch, and we were honoured to have as chief guest the Chairman of the Association, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE** and **Mrs Birtwistle**. Other guests were **Lt Col S. A. Coltman**, CO of 38 Sig Regt (V), and **Mrs Coltman**, and our very good friends **Col Leslie Wright TD, DL** a Past Vice-Chairman of the RSA and **Dave Greenbrook** from RHQ. Our Christmas social is always a well-attended, popular function, as is the annual family outing—this year to Southport, with a buffet evening at Bakewell. A very enjoyable day out.

It is not unusual to have father-son members in a Branch—we have two, or man-and-wife members—we have three, but can any Branch beat having three brothers as members—**Vin, Malcolm** and **Roy Earl**?

A long-standing custom in the Branch has been that if any officer was absent from Branch meetings our 'man for all seasons', **Ernie Taylor**, would take over. This, with his other activities, put quite a bit of strain on him, so it was approved at the last AGM to appoint deputies for all positions. Like most Branches, our older members are getting on a bit, so it was good to see younger members willing to take over. D/Chairman **Moss Elliot**, D/Secretary **Norman Long** and D/Treasurer **Bob Paterson** have already proved their worth, especially **Norman Long** during **Frank Stockdale**'s long incapacity. Present Branch Officers are: Chairman, **F. Powell JP**, Secretary, **F. Stockdale BEM**, Treasurer, **F. Elwood**.

At the Catterick re-union we are always well-presented. We are looking forward to further improving our membership and keeping Sheffield Branch in the forefront of the Association.

Relations with 38 Sig Regt (V) are excellent and we are very appreciative of the use of the Sergeants' Mess for meetings and functions.

On a personal note, to all my old Comrades of 'B' Corps, 23 Brit Inf Bde, and 25 Fd Regt Sig Sec, good luck and chins up—there are not many of us left.

50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

The Indian Signals Association, open to those of Royal Signals who have served in India or with Indian Troops, was started by **Col L. H. Queripel QMG DSO** who had been concerned in 1911 with the formation of the original Divisional Signal Companies, which were part of Sapper and Miner units.

The Anniversary Dinner was held at the Victory Club on 9 April with an attendance of some 100 members and wives. **Col** and **Mrs Alam** represented the Pakistan Army.

The principal speaker was the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**. Other speakers were the Honorary (Past) President, **Maj Gen Richard Moberly** and the President, **Maj Gen David Horsfield**.

Prizes for the oldest member present and the first to have had service in India went to **Maj H. A. Wright** and **E. R. Jones Esq** both aged 87 and with service in India dating back to 1921.

— Sport —

CRICKET

R SIGNALS CORPS CRICKET 1988
Captain's report by Lt Col S. A. Coltman

This season saw the start of an Army experiment whereby the major Arms and Corps took part in a Merit League. The infantry won the competition and we came fourth behind the RE and RAOC. We had some good victories, notably over the RAC and RA and we gave the Infantry, who won every match, a very good game. The Infantry had a very strong side, with several Combined Services and Army players. Of the non-merit matches, our most notable success was the defeat of Sandhurst.

The weather was variable, with a fairly damp May and a splendid 'flaming' June and we were lucky in July. No match was called off through rain. One effect of this weather was that after the early slow wickets, we saw, perhaps, the best batting wickets for many a year and this was reflected in some of the scores.

Some 30 players represented the Corps but we tended to field our strongest sides during the tours in June and July. At times our batting was excellent and it was pleasant to see some younger players of high ability doing well. We saw both the century makers, **Cpls Simon Gibbs** and **Don Bascombe** make hundreds before lunch. This is the first time this feat has been done since 1969. The former went on to make the highest score for the Corps since the war (as far as we can tell from all the Scorebooks). Other fine innings were made by **Cpls Paul Gardner, Simon Naylor** and the skipper. However at other times our batting was a little fragile and this cost us our three defeats.

Our bowling was penetrative and our Secretary, **Capt Dave Luckett** is to be congratulated on his haul of 47 wickets, again the highest for some time. He was well supported by **Cpls Don Bascombe** and **'Tiny' Phillips**. We also saw the emergence of a very rare breed of cricketer, a leg spinner. **Sgt Geoff Watts** became more and more effective as the summer progressed especially on the harder wickets. It was unfortunate that **WO2 Dave Taylor** could play in only a few matches but when he did, he was very effective. It was also nice to see some young apprentices of ability playing and we may see some more of **AT Johns** and **Wilson**.

Perhaps the area of greatest improvement was the fielding. We had the services of a fine wicketkeeper, **Sgt Dean Richardson** and some of the catching was excellent. Occasionally we would put one down and this went to show the younger players the importance of 'catches win matches'.

I am very grateful for the cooperation of COs and OCs who were very helpful. I would also like to record my appreciation of the hard work of the Secretary, **Capt Dave Luckett**. This is also the last season that **Cpl Don Bascombe**, our Army player, will play for us. He leaves the Army in December 1988 and we wish him well. Finally, in my 24th year of Corps cricket, I would like to say how much I enjoyed the good humour and wit of a very pleasant bunch of people.

Cricket
Rear (L to R): Sgt Dean Richardson, Lt Col Steve Coltman (Captain), Cpl 'Tiny' Phillips, Capt Dave Luckett (Secretary) and David Wise
Front (L to R): Cpls Paul Gardner, Simon Naylor, Simon Gibbs, Sig Paul Goodhand, Cpl Don Bascombe and Sgt 'Taff' Watts

The following were awarded their Corps Colours: **Capt Dean Luckett** (AAC Harrogate), **Sgt Dean Richardson** (30 Sig Regt), **Sgt Geoff Watts** (AAC Harrogate), **Cpl Simon Gibbs** (14 Sig Regt), **Cpl Simon Naylor** (16 Sig Regt) and **Cpl 'Tiny' Phillips** (8 Sig Regt). They are to be congratulated.

The following represented the Corps regularly: **Lt Col S. A. Coltman** (Captain) (38 Sig Regt (V)), **Maj Paul Wilkin, Capt David Luckett** (AAC Harrogate), **Capt Frank Dempster** (31 Sig Regt (V)), **Capt David Wise** (School of Signals), **WO2 Dave Taylor** (AAC Harrogate), **Sgt Dean Richardson** (30 Sig Regt), **Sgt Geoff Watts** (AAC Harrogate), **Cpl Don Bascombe** (School of Signals), **Cpl 'Tiny' Phillips** (8 Sig Regt), **Cpls Simon Gibbs, Paul Gardener** (14 Sig Regt) and **Cpl Simon Naylor** (16 Sig Regt).

The following also played: **Col S. Carr-Smith** (MOD (MGO Sec)), **Maj Ian Griffiths** (4 Div HQ and Sig Regt), **Capt Andy Dunn** (238 (L) Sig Sqn), **Lt David Egan** (AAC Harrogate), **Lt Alister Beard** (39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), **WO2 'Wobbly' Ellis** (30 Sig Regt), **Sgt Terry Gigg** (210 Sig Sqn), **Sgt Billy Watts** (36 Sig Regt (V)), **Sgt Paul Collins** (AAC Harrogate), **Cpl Tony Pinset** (8 Sig Regt), **Cpl Jennings** (244 Sig Sqn (AS)), **Sig Drayton** (School of Signals), **Sig Barber** (Comms and Sy Gp UK), **Sig Barry Pickles** (8 Sig Regt), **Sig Paul Goodhand** (8 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) and **ATs Gary Wilson** and **Nicholas Johns** (AAC Harrogate).

R Signals v RMA Sandhurst at Sandhurst, 25 May 1988

RMA Sandhurst—97	
Capt D. Luckett	5-31
Cpl D. Bascombe	4-13
R Signals—100-3	
Maj I. Griffiths	51 no

R Signals won by 7 wickets

R Signals v REME (Merit Table Match) at Arborfield, 26 May 1988

R Signals—104	
REME—81	
Cpl D. Bascombe	5-22
Capt D. Luckett	4-29

R Signals won by 23 runs

R Signals v RAOC (Merit Table Match) at Deepcut, 30 May 1988

R Signals—110	
RAOC—111-4	

RAOC won by 6 wickets

R Signals v ACC at Aldershot, 2 June 1988

R Signals—183	
Capt D. Luckett	85
ACC—123-5	
Cpl D. Bascombe	3-33

Match drawn

R Signals v The Infantry (Merit Table Match) at Strensall, 14 June 88 *(55 over game)*

Infantry—196-9 innings closed	
Capt D. Luckett	5-75
R Signals—141	
Lt Col S. Coltman	57

Infantry won by 55 runs

R Signals v RCT (Merit Table Match) at Catterick, 16 June 1988

R Signals—192	
Cpl S. Gibbs	65
RCT—153-9	
Capt D. Luckett	3-38

Match drawn

R Signals v RAF Signals at Catterick, 17 June 1988

RAF Signals—187-9 declared	
WO2 D. Taylor	3-33
Sgt G. Watts	3-44
R Signals—167-9	
Cpl P. Gardner	79
Cpl D. Bascombe	55

Match drawn

R Signals v RAC (Merit Table Match) at Bovington, 20 June 1988

R Signals—274-6 declared	
Cpl P. Gardner	91 no
Cpl S. Gibbs	57
Lt Col S. Coltman	48
RAC—155	
Capt D. Luckett	7-49

R Signals won by 119 runs

R Signals v RA (Merit Table Match) at Blandford, 22 June 1988
R Signals—252-5 declared
Cpl S. Gibbs 153
Lt Col S. Coltman 54
RA—97
Capt D. Luckett 8-13
R Signals won by 155 runs

R Signals v GOC 2 Div XI at Strensall, 29 June 1988
R Signals—210
Cpl D. Bascombe 113
GOC 2 Div XI—128
Sgt G. Watts 4-48
WO2 D. Taylor 3-43
R Signals won by 82 runs

R Signals v RAPC at Blandford, 4/5 July 1988
R Signals—109
and—191-8 declared
Cpl S. Gibbs 75
Lt Col S. Coltman 47
RAPC—83
Cpl D. Bascombe 4-19
Capt D. Luckett 4-20
and 151-6
Capt D. Luckett 4-56
Match drawn

R Signals v RMCS Shrivenham at Shrivenham, 6 July 1988
(40 over game—Sunday League rules)
R Signals—245-7 after 39 overs (Reduced after rain affected)
Cpl P. Gardner 66
Cpl S. Naylor 60
RMCS—71-8 after 33 overs (Target reduced to 206)
Maj P. Wilkin 3-23
R Signals won by 134 runs

R Signals v RE (Merit Table Match) at Cheltenham, 13 July 1988
RE—208-7 declared
Capt D. Luckett 3-79
R Signals—119
RE won by 89 runs

SUMMARY
All Matches

P	W	D	L
13	6	4	3

Merit Table

P	W	D	L
7	3	1	3

Batting Averages

Name	*Matches*	*Innings*	*Not out*	*Highest Score*	*Runs*	*Average*
Cpl S. Gibbs	7	8	—	153	357	44.63
Cpl P. Gardner	7	8	1	91 no	296	42.28
Cpl S. Naylor	4	5	—	60	147	29.40
Lt Col S. Coltman	13	14	—	57	375	26.79
Cpl D. Bascombe	12	13	1	113	273	22.75
Capt D. Luckett	13	11	1	85	163	16.30
Cpl A. Phillips	11	9	2	22 no	83	11.86

Bowlings

Name	*Over*	*Maidens*	*Run*	*Wickets*	*Average*
Capt D. Luckett	172	45	453	47	9.64
Cpl D. Bascombe	104	33	275	21	13.10
Sgt G. Watts	81	14	251	13	19.31
Cpl A. Phillips	87	21	287	10	28.70

Fieldings

Name	*ct*	*st*	*Total*
Sgt D. Richardson	11	2	13
Cpl D. Bascombe	8	—	8
Cpl A. Phillips	5	—	5
Cpl S. Gibbs	5	—	5
Sig P. Goodhand	2	2	4
Lt Col S. Coltman	4	—	4
Capt D. Luckett	4	—	4
Cpl S. Naylor	4	—	4

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988

For a change, the 1988 Orienteering Championships were held in the RCZ on the German/Dutch border adjacent to RAF Bruggen. The Championships were hosted by 21 Sig Regt with **Capt Graham McNeil** planning the courses for both days. We were lucky to get, as Controller, the services of **Maj Mike Roach RCT** who, incidentally, was the mapper.

Day 1 was an individual event and it was combined with an RCZ league event. Attendance was fairly good with some 146 orienteers from most BAOR Royal Signals units including the Berlin HQ and Signal Regiment.

The Elmpter Wald is fairly flat and fast times were expected and achieved. The A Course was well won by **Cpl Willson** from 21 Sig Regt with **Capt Gill**, Berlin HQ and Signal Regiment, close on his heels to achieve second place. Third place went to **Sgt Backhouse** 14 Sig Regt. His ankle injury in the summer has drastically reduced his fitness but he hopes to be fit by the end of the year. The B Course had many of the M40 hopefuls plus a few M45s competing against one another as well as a few younger up-and-coming orienteers. As expected, **Maj Graham Thomas** from AFCENT won, with **LCpl Evans** 211 Sig Sqn second and **WO2 Barry Camille** 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt third. The C Course attracted relatively new orienteers and novices and was well won by **Cpl Keane** 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, with **WO2 Whytock** 211 Sig Sqn second and **LCpl Bartliff** 28 Sig Regt third. The best M17 runner was **LCpl Yule** 28 Sig Regt. The best M35 was **Sgt Francis** 28 Sig Regt and the WRAC prize went, as expected, to the very fit **Capt O'Nians WRAC** 227 Sig Sqn.

Day 2 was the team relay competition with a disappointing turn out of only 106 Orienteers with a number of units not participating. For those who ran, it proved an exciting race initially, with 14 Sig Regt, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt favourites to win the Major Unit competition and 211 Sig Sqn, 227 Sig Sqn or Berlin HQ and Sig Regt the minor unit competition. First runner back was **LCpl Fee** 14 Sig Regt on the C Course in 22 minutes and he handed over to the very fast **Cpl Kelly** who competed the second leg in 19 minutes, giving 14 Sig Regt a major time advantage. On the longer A and B Courses, the first runners in were from different units. However, the second runner in on the B Course was also from 14 Sig Regt but by then the result seemed inevitable. 14 Sig Regt had a significant time advantage over 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt which they were not to lose. It seems that the training that 14 Sig Regt and conducted prior to the Championships was paying off.

We were very pleased to see **Maj Gen Davies**, Comd Comms BAOR on Day 2. Not only did he start the Relay but he stayed the day, watching the various competitors, and presented the prizes at the end of the event. He commented on the many somewhat old and bold competitors including two Commanding Officers and encouraged everyone to get some younger soldiers involved in the sport. He also congratulated 21 Sig Regt on a well run event and thanked **Capt Graham McNeil** and **Maj Mike Roach** for all their hard work.

Major Unit Champions were 14 Sig Regt (EW)
Minor Unit Champions were 211 Sig Sqn

Next year it is hoped to hold the Royal Signals (BAOR) Championships in the Herford/Bielefeld area to reduce travelling distance for those stations at the extremes of BAOR and to produce a few hills that have been missing from the Championships during the past three years.

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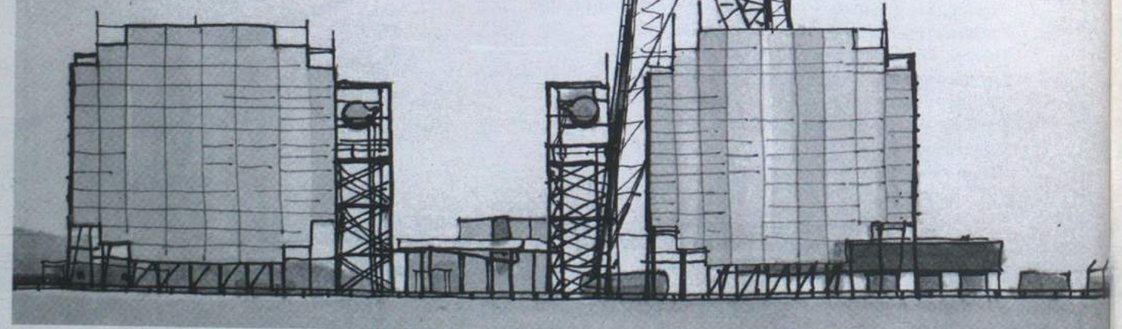

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